



# IT'S REIGNING MEN

Superstars poised for a holiday blockbuster showdown **40**

Smell like a burger  
for your lover **7**

Gov. Blagojevich,  
you're naked! **11**

Fashion, anthrax run,  
more city fun **27**

**red  
eye**

**Friday**  
DECEMBER 19, 2008

**redeyechicago.com**

A Chicago Tribune  
publication

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# hot dives in the city

Don't judge a bar by its cover—what these Chicago spots lack in beauty, they make up for with lots of character **8-9**



Bernadette  
Gonzalez smokes  
outside Rossi's in  
River North.  
RACHAEL STRECHER  
PHOTO FOR REDEYE



# 2do

## To watch

Catch a free screening of "Actors Anonymous—Exposed," a documentary about a weekly discussion group of actors and models, at 7 p.m. Friday at Bon V (1100 W. Randolph St.).

## To discuss

See "Jon" at 8 p.m. Friday at The Building Stage (412 N. Carpenter St.), then stick around for a discussion with George Saunders, author of the short story "Jon," and Seth Bockley, the play's director and adapter. \$15-\$25.

## To shop

Meet jewelry designer Meg Lammers and browse her works at a trunk show from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at The Left Bank Jewelry & Uniquities (1155 W. Webster Ave.).

## To date

RedEye wants to play matchmaker for you. Our new feature "The Hookup" sets up Chicago singles for a night on the town. The only catch: You have to dish about your experience with us and our readers. Sign up at [redeychicago.com/thehookup](http://redeychicago.com/thehookup).

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## Aye, aye caption

Text us a funny caption for the photo above and we'll print the best in Monday's RedEye. To give it a shot, text the word "caption" followed by your brief caption and your name to **47383**. Good luck!



**Thursday's winner:** "Who's your daddy now?" — HeX



## Write a song for G-Rod

Gov. Blagojevich says he runs because "it keeps love in your heart."

Inspired? Take the words "Keep Love In Your Heart" and create a song about G-Rod. For the entry to count, you need to send an actual song with actual singing or a video of you performing the song. We can't accept just lyrics.

Send songs to **blagolove@yahoo.com**; deadline is Jan. 5. Every song will be posted at [redeychicago.com](http://redeychicago.com). Our staff will choose finalists and a winner.



# 32 21

**TODAY'S FORECAST**

Heavy snow trails off to light snow. Now start shoveling!



**SAT. 29 17**

More snow tonight



**SUN. 19 -4**

Wind chill alert!



**MON. 5 -8**

Sunny but frigid

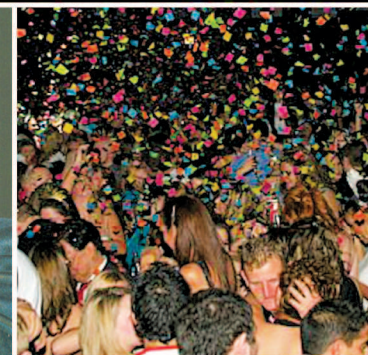


**TUE. 23 9**

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President-elect Obama's pick of Pastor Rick Warren (right) to deliver the invocation at his inauguration drew objections from gay rights advocates.

AP FILE

# Pastor outrage

Gay rights advocates stung by Obama's selection of evangelical minister for inauguration

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** President-elect Obama on Thursday defended his choice of popular evangelical minister Rick Warren to deliver the invocation at his inauguration, rejecting criticism that it slights gays.

Warren's selection brought objections from gay rights advocates, who strongly supported Obama during the election campaign. The advocates are angry over Warren's backing of California's Proposition 8 ballot initiative banning gay marriage, approved last month.

But Obama told reporters in Chicago that America needs to "come together," even when there's disagreement on social issues. "That dialogue is part of what my campaign is all about," he said.

"It is no secret that I am a fierce advocate for equality for gay and lesbian Americans," Obama said.

Warren, best-selling author of "The Purpose Driven Life" and leader of a Southern California megachurch, is one of a new breed of evangelicals who stress the need for action on social issues such as reducing poverty and protecting the environment, alongside traditional theological themes.

But Warren wrote in October that the issue of gay marriage is not a political issue, but instead "a moral issue that God has spoken clearly about," according to [cnn.com](http://cnn.com).

"For 5,000 years, every culture and every religion—not just Christianity—has defined marriage as a contract between men and women," Warren wrote in a newsletter to his congregation. "There is no reason to change the uni-

## AND MUSICAL GUESTS ...

Aretha Franklin will perform at the inauguration ceremonies, it was announced this week. Famed cellist Yo-Yo Ma and violinist Itzhak Perlman are among the performers who will play a new work by "Star Wars" composer John Williams. Some 4,000 local police, 4,000 police from around the country and security agents from other government agencies will be on hand, taking direction from the Secret Service.

versal, historical definition of marriage to appease 2 percent of our population."

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay rights organization, said Warren's opposition to gay marriage is a sign of intolerance.

"We feel a deep level of disrespect when one of the architects and promoters of an anti-gay agenda is given the prominence and the pulpit of your historic nomination," the group said in a letter to Obama, asking him to reconsider.

Obama, however, pointed out that a couple of years ago, he was invited to speak at Warren's church, despite their disagreements on a number of issues.

The president-elect said a "wide range of viewpoints" will be presented during the inaugural ceremonies.

His selection of Warren is seen as a signal to religious conservatives that the president-elect will listen to their views. During the campaign, Warren interviewed Obama and Republican John McCain in a widely watched TV program that focused on religious concerns.



## CASUAL FRIDAY

# No office for you!

What's the deal with impeachment proceedings?

The Illinois General Assembly's actions toward Gov. Blagojevich (above) remind us of the woes Morty Seinfeld (below) faced when he was impeached as condo president of Del Boca Vista Phase II in "Seinfeld."

The "Seinfeld" scandal began after Jerry Seinfeld bought his father Morty a Cadillac and confused shuffleboarders accused Morty of stealing from condo coffers. Blagojevich's problems began after those confusing wire taps. Who's master of his domain? Sounds like a faceoff! **TRACY SWARTZ, REDEYE**

## BLAGOJEVICH:

Allegedly used his executive power to try to sell Barack Obama's Senate seat.

## IN THE VAULT



## SEINFELD:

Earned his money by selling raincoats for 38 years and inventing the beltless trench coat, also known as "the executive."

His signature coif was parodied on "Saturday Night Live": "It looks like you're wearing a toupee that's also wearing a toupee."

## "YOU ARE SO GOOD LOOKING"



Made fashion waves with his short-sleeved cruisewear and tight "No. 1 Dad" T-shirt. And there's no hotter accessory than a tip calculator.

"I've got this thing, and it's [bleeping] golden. And I'm just not giving it up for [bleeping] nothing."



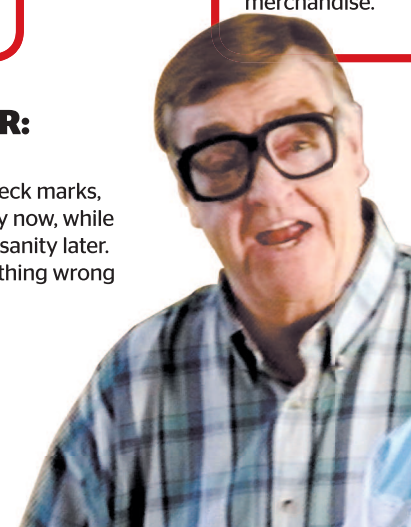
## HIGH TALKER

"Cheap fabric and dim lighting. That's how you move merchandise."

## THE WINNER: SEINFELD

According to the check marks, Seinfeld has serenity now, while Blagojevich faces insanity later. Not that there's anything wrong with that ...

Casual Friday is a, er, casual look at the week's news. Got an idea for us? E-mail [ritaredeye@tribune.com](mailto:ritaredeye@tribune.com) or Tweet us.





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**page four**

**JIMMY GREENFIELD**  
[jgreenfield@tribune.com](mailto:jgreenfield@tribune.com)

***If I were Jesse Jackson Jr. and I wanted to convince the public I was an honest man, I'd head to the nearest town square, hop up on a soapbox and scream at the top of my lungs, "I informed on the governor!" Instead, he doesn't want to be seen as a tattletale or, God forbid, a rat.***

## Tattling tales we should applaud

There's a reason most of us are decent, law-abiding citizens, and it has nothing to do with what's in our genes or the way we were raised.

It's just the good old-fashioned fear of getting caught.

If it weren't for the possibility of going to jail, I know I'd be out there stealing wide-screen HDTV sets and hijacking Cheetos delivery trucks.

Hey, I never said I'd be a very ambitious thief.

But I don't steal because jail isn't something I want to experience. Mostly it's because I figure there are honest people out there who would turn me in if they had the chance.

You'd turn me in, right? If you discovered me stealing something you'd call the cops?

OK, then let's all give Jesse Jackson Jr. a big round of applause for informing on Gov. Blagojevich. Not because Blagojevich is the slimeball du jour. It's getting a little too easy to demonize Rod, and I'm ready to let him have his day in court.

Jackson deserves a pat on the back because, apparently, he learned of something he thought was wrong and decided it was his duty to do something about it.

This week, Jackson spokesman Kenneth Edmonds said Jackson has "provided information to federal authorities regarding his personal knowledge of perceived corruption and governmental misconduct."

So he's an informant?

"It is absolutely inaccurate to describe the congressman as an informant," Edmonds said in a written statement.

See, if I were Jesse Jackson Jr. and I wanted to convince the public I was an honest man, I'd head to the nearest town square, hop up on a soapbox and scream at the top of my lungs, "I informed on the governor!"

Instead, he doesn't want to be seen as a tattletale or, God forbid, a rat.

There are certainly degrees of snitching. It's far more noble to report a crime for the public good than it is to rat out a friend to reduce your jail time.

So let's not confuse tattling for selfish reasons with informing for the right ones. Sharing information about a crime committed by a public official simply is the right thing to do.

It doesn't matter if it's a politician, fireman or policeman. Everyone needs to fear being told on.

Just as there's nothing more honorable than a cop who puts his life on the line, there's little more despicable than a cop who abuses his power. But bad cops or politicians aren't what bug me, since there are bad people in every profession. What I hate is this idea that telling on your own is worse than the crime itself.

It's that absence of fear that allows corruption and the abuse of power to flourish. So if Jesse Jackson Jr. won't acknowledge he was an informant and it was the right thing to do, then I'll do it for him.

Nice work, Jesse. Keep this up and you just might talk me into voting for you one day.



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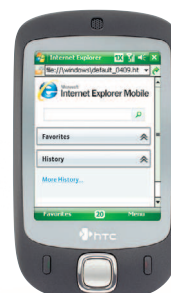
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A still image from Burger King's Web site advertising its new fragrance, "Flame."

# Here's the beef

## No joke: BK launches meat-scented body spray for men

**NEW YORK** Looking to beef up your mojo this holiday season?

Burger King may have just the thing. The home of the Whopper has launched a new men's body spray called "Flame." The company describes the spray as "the scent of seduction with a hint of flame-broiled meat."

The fragrance is on sale at New York City retailer Ricky's NYC in stores and online for a limited time for \$3.99.

Burger King is marketing the product through a Web site featuring a photo of its King character reclining fireside and naked but for an animal fur strategically placed to not offend.

The marketing ploy is the latest in a string of viral ad campaigns by the company. Burger King also is in the midst of its Whopper Virgins campaign that features a taste test with fast-food "virgins" pitting the Whopper against McDonald's Big Mac.

Before things get too heated, set the mood at [firemeetsdesire.com](http://firemeetsdesire.com).

## Twitter pick-up lines

You knew this was coming. We asked our Twitter followers to come up with some pick-up lines to celebrate BK's new meat-scented fragrance. Here are some of the best.

**@phantomtweeter** Hope you like some cheese with your pick up lines because I have a whopper  
**@verso** Hey, baby, let's go back to my place where you can have it YOUR way  
**@DanGreen23** Hey baby, I am going to flip for you

**@randomnickname** Say baby ... will you give it to me my way?

**@sbabz** Excuse me, but I was just wondering if you happen to have a Whopper in your pants?

**@paigeworthy** You want fries with THIS?

**@kapgar** Lemme show you well done  
**@polomex**

I'm told I'm a Rare find. Yeah, mama raised me well done



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# Divers' education

Less is more for Chicago's authentic dive bars

By **Leonor Vivanco**  
REDEYE

Sandwiched between an alley and a liquor store, Rossi's, with its green awning and steel door cluttered with union election stickers, looks like a shady hole in the wall on State Street in River North.

But appearances don't stop patrons from trickling into the dimly lit bar, perhaps lured by the neon Old Style and Pabst Blue Ribbon signs in the windows, or the promise of cheap drinks.

Its scuffed, uneven linoleum floor is missing a slice of tile, exposing concrete. A bartender greets the thirsty as they slide into the broken-in leather stools that line the nicked bar, where drinkers rest their arms and, sometimes, their foreheads.

Behind the cash-only bar decorated with Christmas lights a sign reads, "Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder."

At Rossi's and elsewhere, "dive" isn't a four-letter word, so to speak. Some bar owners and bartenders in Chicago embrace the dive bar title. Matchbox in West Town was honored last month in *Playboy*, which named it one of 10 "Great American Dive Bars."

So what makes a bar a true dive? Bar-goers point to decor, service and patrons. No cover. No lines. No doorman. No credit cards. No bottle service. No BS. It's what draws drinkers to dive bars. That, and inexpensive drinks. With the economy tanking, more drinkers may be looking for a cheaper way to get tanked.

So dive bars could get a little more crowded, which would be out of character.

"It's a neighborhood hangout. It's very tiny and approachable," said Jackie Gevercer of the Matchbox (she's married to the owner). While Matchbox is known for its margaritas and ginger gimlets, the signs of a dive bar are there: small, old, dark, eclectic, packaged beer for sale.

Other signs: No computerized registers, no flat-screen TVs, no Tixies, no Chads, no hipsters, nobody trying to dangle money from behind a row of people at the bar waiting to be served.

"[Dive bars] just seem more comfortable," said Jonathan Stockton, author of "Chicago's

## An 'F' for 'friendly'

From bartenders to drinking buddies, everyone typically is friendly at a dive bar, said Anthony Diefenbach, 28, a restaurant manager who lives in Chinatown.

"How often do you go to a bar and never talk to the person sitting next to you?" he said. That won't happen at a dive bar. "It's very unpretentious. What it is is a place for people to unwind without thinking they're going to be taken advantage of."

Charles Olbera, 28, an iron worker who lives in Archer Heights, keeps coming back to dive bars like Rossi's downtown: "I come here and I can be myself. I don't have to dress a certain way, impress anyone."

» Log on to **metromix.com**'s bars and clubs section to see how to save cash at dive bars around town.



Best Dive Bars." "You don't feel like you need to dress up. You don't need to bring much money.

"Once you find one you like, you feel welcome."

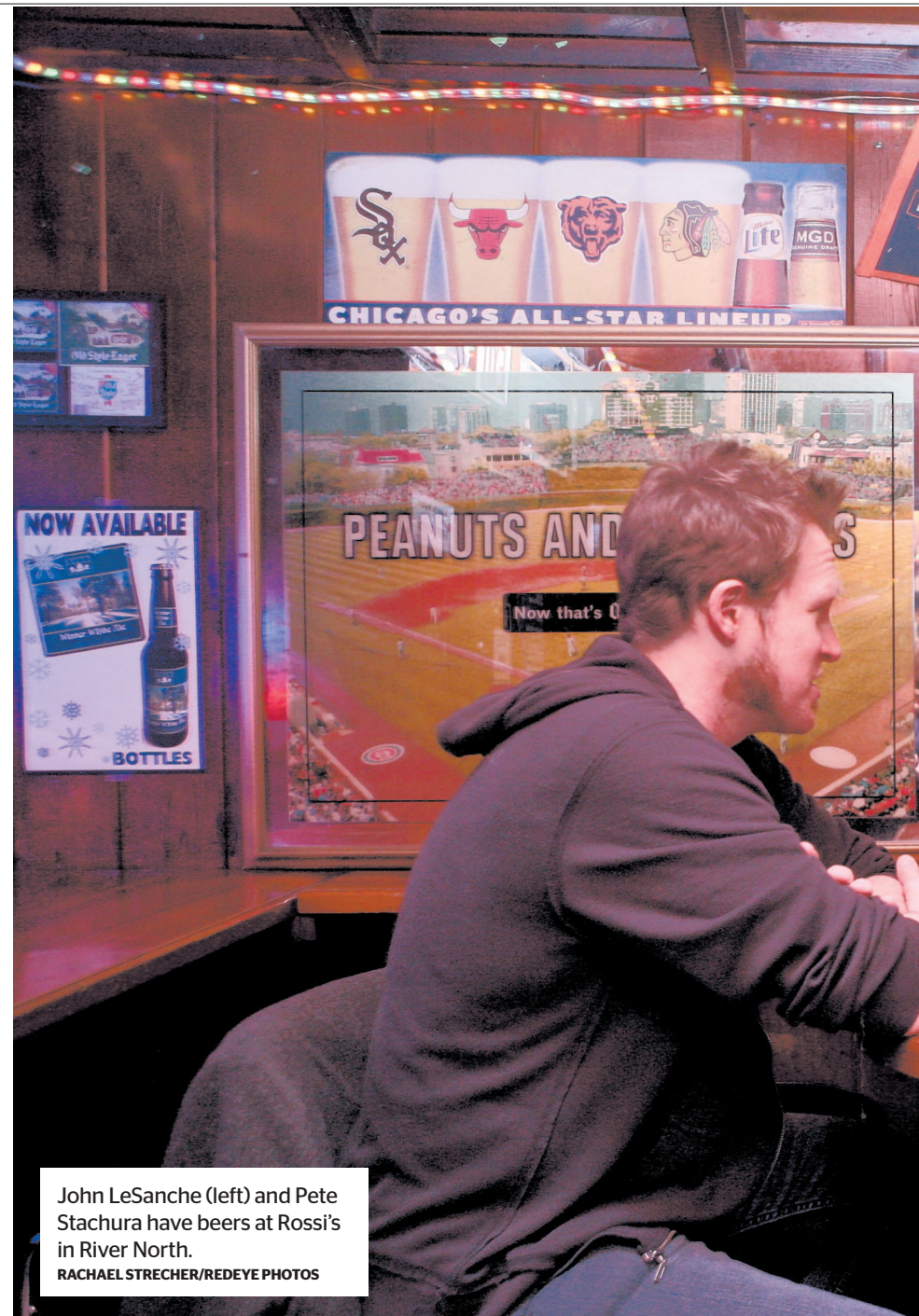
A good way to tell if a bar's a dive: check the name, said Stockton, who listed nearly 100 dives in his book. "If it seems to be named after somebody, if there's an Old Style sign, that's a good way to tell," he said.

The bar's probably at least 30 years old, he said, maybe a little run-down and has a somewhat nostalgic feel, showcasing photos or newspaper clippings about Chicago's history.

And dive bars are places where patrons won't hassle each other.

"You're not dealing with attitude. You're just dealing with your friends you're going out to have fun with," said Rob Lekan, 30, who lives in North Center and chooses dives over clubs.

Another thing that differentiates dive bars is the person serving patrons. "Usually the owner is there or working behind the bar, or some family member is," Lekan, a personal



John LeSanche (left) and Pete Stachura have beers at Rossi's in River North.

RACHAEL STRECHER/REDEYE PHOTOS

trainer, said.

The people seated at the bar can be a good indicator too.

"If you go to a real dive bar, you will have people from all walks of life. You do have some young people in their 20s and 30s, but a good dive bar will have some old locals [who have been] drinking at that bar for 20 years," said Ted Koerth, 31, a lawyer who lives in Lakeview. "You've got working class, blue-collar type of jobs, and they're there in part because you can get a \$2 can of Busch Light and the price is right."

A dive bar is not a meat market place to be seen, he said. Koerth alerted bar crawlers attending his third Dive Bar Tour last month to leave their designer jeans and little black dresses at home.

The bar's decor, he said, is just as important in cementing its dive bar status.

Most have one-stall bathrooms, random knickknacks behind the bar or serve chips as a snack (because they don't have kitchens to serve food). Some open as early as 7 a.m. or 8 a.m. like Rossi's and Richard's, and almost all dives have wood paneling, making the bar look like it hasn't been updated in decades.

"It's like your grandma's basement," Koerth said.

A true dive bar's jukebox shouldn't have any techno, and probably no hip-hop, he said. And it doesn't have to only be a bar.

"One thing very divey is a 'slashy,'" Koerth said. That's when the bar is a bar-slash-liquor store, a place to drink and/or buy a six-pack to take home.

That's what you'll find in Richard's, which has two entrances on Milwaukee and Grand Avenues, next door to Emmitt's in River West.

With an exterior painted like an Italian





## High dive

What makes a dive bar great? Text “**dive**” and the number of your answer to **47383**. You’ll get the poll results instantly.

- 1) The decor—the grittier, the better
- 2) The quirkiness, such as shower curtains for bathroom stalls or the bar dog
- 3) The people—everyone knows your name
- 4) The drinks—PBR and Old Style are musts. No “-tinis” here.
- 5) The snacks—mmm, pretzels and chips

flag—green, white and red—the inside serves as an old-school history lesson, with posters of the Rat Pack and Al Capone, and Frank Sinatra on the jukebox.

“Some people like it because it’s old and they like the atmosphere of an old bar,” said bartender Leslie “Lee”

Martin, 96, who’s been serving drinks there for more than 40 years.

And there’s no offense taken when it’s called a dive bar.

“As far as I know, no one objects to it,” Martin said. “I don’t care what they call it, just come in and have a drink.”

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Rossi's regular Jason Overton picks out some music.

## Dive-rific!

RedEye checked out a few dive bars under the guise of research and discovered some quirks that only bolster their status as true dives.

### Rossi's

RIVER NORTH

The bar has a side door that goes out to the alley and a door in the basement that supposedly leads to the State Street “L” tracks. Legend has it customers would escape through those doors when the police raided the joint during the Prohibition era in the early 1930s. And there are rumors about nine rooms above the bar that once operated as a brothel.

### Richard's

RIVER WEST

There are no taps for beer behind the bar, but there are bags of Jay's potato chips, a sign advertising hard-boiled eggs for 75 cents and stacks of packs of cigarettes. An out-of-order pay phone can be found by the women's bathroom, which has a door that looks like it has bullet holes in it.

### Stella's

UKRAINIAN VILLAGE

A \$5 bill pays for 18 songs on the digital jukebox, and the selection

includes some Polish tunes.

### Bernice's Tavern

BRIDGEPORT

The only way to enter is to be buzzed in, and a mini traffic light sits on the bar. Green indicates the bar is open, yellow is last call and red means the bar's closed.

### Bob Inn

LOGAN SQUARE

While sipping a \$3 vodka tonic or \$2, 12-ounce Hamm's beer, play the Golden Tee arcade game for free.

### Rose's

LAKEVIEW

Look for the two octagonal windows lit by neon signs. Pepper, a well-behaved dog owned by a regular, might greet you at the door.

### Paulie's Place

PILSEN

There's no name on the bar's exterior. Inside, the name is etched on a mirror at the bar, not far from the pool table and duct-taped jukebox.

## Dive bar or hipster hangout?

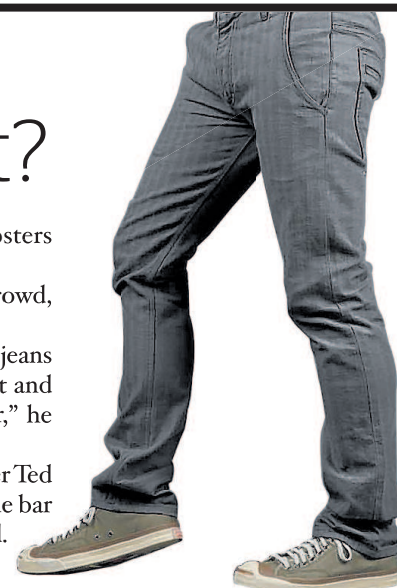
Many dive bar aficionados lament the invasion of hipsters to dive bars.

You can tell if it's a hipster place by surveying the crowd, said Rob Lekan, 30, who lives in North Center.

“If you see every guy in there with tight, skinny black jeans on with funky hair, and you come in with a Bears shirt and they might look at you funny, you're in a hipster bar,” he said.

Being too crowded is another way to tell, said bar-goer Ted Koerth, 31, of Lakeview. “If there are many people in the bar under the age of 35, then that's probably a sign,” he said.

LEONOR VIVANCO, NYT FILE PHOTO





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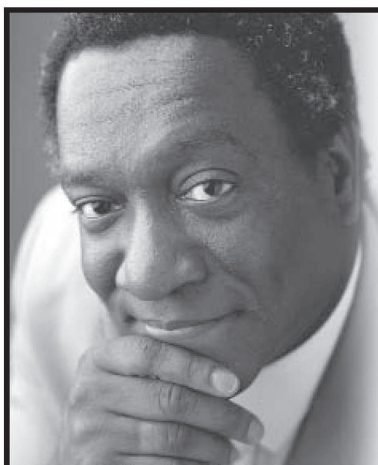
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# chicago

## Former NU student charged in death

### Chicago Tribune

A former Northwestern University student has been charged with giving alcohol to a teen who died after a party in Evanston last summer, authorities said Thursday.



### Sunshine

Alexander James Krzyston, 22, of Evanston was charged Wednesday with felony unlawful delivery of alcohol to a minor in the June 9 death of NU freshman Matthew Sunshine, 19, of Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., police said.

Police said an autopsy showed that Sunshine's blood-alcohol level at the time of his death was 0.396, nearly five times the legal limit for driving if he was over 21, 0.08.

University officials said Krzyston was a student over the summer but was not enrolled in the fall.

Police said Krzyston bought alcohol for Sunshine and others, which the students consumed during a drinking game at the Foster House dormitory, where Sunshine and Krzyston lived.

"It's a tragedy on all ends that's for sure," said Cmdr. Tom Guenther. "Evanston police always take these investigations very seriously. We try to educate students about the dangers of drinking, and we constantly check the bars. But it's hard to detect underage drinking on campus."



Bruce Elliott works on a painting of Gov. Blagojevich on Thursday that will hang on the wall of The Old Town Ale House. TOM VAN DYKE/TRIBUNE

## Governor!

### Blagojevich like you've never seen him before

### Chicago Tribune

Mired in a scandal that could strip him of his pride, his job and the misperception that anyone shares his enthusiasm for his hair, Gov. Blagojevich has now also been stripped of his clothes.

A nude portrait of the governor, by artist Bruce Elliot, is nearly complete and will hang on the wall of his wife's bar, The Old Town Ale House, next to his infamous

depiction of a naked Sarah Palin. It is the next installment in what Elliot loosely calls his "nude governor series."

"I was stunned when I found out what that criminal complaint [outlined]," Elliott said in his Old Town studio.

The scene imagines Blagojevich handcuffed and wearing an orange jumpsuit pulled down to his knees. Among the onlookers is a guard, with a look of grim determination, pulling on a rubber glove.

The painting, which took Elliot a little over a week to finish, is titled: "The Cavity Search."

### MEANWHILE ...

Lawmakers could be forced to build their impeachment case against Gov. Blagojevich on a raft of relatively small grievances, rather than the blockbuster Senate-seat-for-sale allegations, for fear of undermining federal prosecutors' criminal investigation.

### In other developments Thursday:

- » Blagojevich attorney Ed Genson questioned the legality of the wiretaps.
- » Atty. Gen. Lisa Madigan's office rejected requests from Genson that taxpayers pay for his legal defense.
- » Blagojevich, who said he would have something to say no later than Thursday, made no comments to reporters.
- » Impeachment committee adjourned until Monday. It plans to work Monday and Tuesday before breaking for Christmas.

## Evening rush hour spared, but storm still coming

### Chicago Tribune

Depending on where you live, you are either waking up to a whole lot of snow, or whole lot of ice or a whole lot of both.

The National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning that's set to expire at noon for as much as a foot of snow in some areas.

Total snowfall by mid-morning Friday is expected to be about a foot along the Wisconsin-Illinois border, 8 to 12 inches

from the North Side of Chicago west through DeKalb, and 5 to 9 inches from the far southern suburbs into Northwest Indiana, the weather service said.

Lesser snow accumulations—between 1 and 5 inches—are expected south of Interstate 80, but significant icing will be more of a problem in this region, the weather service said, with a quarter- to a half-inch.

Ahead of the storm, O'Hare canceled about

100 flights and Midway canceled about two dozen. Airport officials advised travelers to contact their airlines ahead of time and arrive at least two hours before departure.

Also, several schools in the area canceled classes in anticipation of the hazardous conditions and the number is likely to rise. Some other schools planned for late starts to the day.

ComEd was preparing for the storm on Thursday, opening the company's emergency

operations center and regional offices, postponing scheduled work that would require equipment to be out of service and scheduling extra work crews.

ComEd said that ice buildup, gusty winds and fallen tree limbs can cause power lines to fall, and the company is warning customers that downed lines can be live and dangerous.

ComEd urges anyone with power problems to call 1-800-EDISON-1 (1-800-334-7661).





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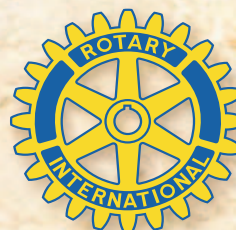
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# Family of Peterson's fiance baffled

Friends and family of Christina Raines were still reeling from the shock Thursday that she could be Drew Peterson's fiance.

"She should think before she gets into something she can't get out of," said 54-year-old Joe Raines of Minnesota, who said he was her uncle. "She needs to find somebody else. Nothing good is going to come out of this."

Raines, 23, was identified this week as the latest love interest of Peterson, a 54-year-old former Bolingbrook police sergeant who still is married



**Peterson**

to his missing wife, Stacy.

Investigators have named Peterson the sole suspect in Stacy Peterson's October 2007 disappearance. She also was 23 when she was last seen.

If indeed Raines—who couldn't be reached Thursday—is engaged to Peterson, it would be at least his sixth fiance.

Peterson declined to discuss his engagement, which was confirmed by his publicist. Sources named Raines as his betrothed. Raines denied the relationship to the Sun-Times.

Raines' former boyfriend of five years, Tony Yauk, said he saw a ring on her finger, and he knows Raines and Peterson have been friendly for years.

"I didn't think it was true," said Yauk, 26, the father of her two children, ages 4 and 5. "But I just got done talking to her face to face and, uh, I think it's true."

## City wins round against handguns

Chicago won Round 1 in its defense of the city's handgun ban, but Mayor Daley said Thursday he's looking at less sweeping gun control measures in the wake of a U.S. Supreme Court decision against such laws this year.

The nation's high court struck down a Washington, D.C., handgun ban similar to Chicago's law. The National Rifle Association then moved to challenge Chicago's ban.

On Thursday, U.S. District Judge Milton Shadur rejected the gun rights group's effort to extend the D.C. ruling to Chicago and Oak Park. Shadur concluded earlier this month the Supreme Court decision did not give him the authority to take that action.

The NRA immediately appealed Shadur's decision, and attorney Stephen Halbrook said the group is confident it will prevail in a higher court.

Daley has maintained the ruling striking down D.C.'s handgun ban cannot be extended to states and cities not under federal control. He said Chicago next month will host a "gun conference" that will include leaders from across the country and people who have lost loved ones to handgun violence.

## 'Spiritual adviser' charged with theft

An Arlington Heights woman has been arrested for allegedly posing as a fortuneteller and promising to drive away "evil spirits" in exchange for money, police said Thursday.

Gina Reed, 35, was charged Wednesday with one count of felony theft by deception, according to a Chicago police statement. Reed allegedly billed herself as a "spiritual adviser/fortuneteller."

In August 2007 a 46-year-old woman went to Reed's home, police said. She agreed to give Reed \$10,000 for blessing her and driving away her evil spirits; Reed allegedly promised to return the money after the blessing was done.

The woman tried several times to retrieve her money without success, police said. Reed, meanwhile, disconnected her phone number, moved out of the home and made no effort to contact the woman.

Investigators believe Reed may have bilked as much as \$98,000 from at least four other people, the statement said.



**Just wait** People line up Thursday outside Niketown on North Michigan Avenue in advance of Tuesday's release of a commemorative Air Jordan shoe—the last pair of numbered Air Jordans Nike plans to sell. A total of 23 U.S. stores are each selling 23 pairs on Dec. 23 at \$230 a pop. Keep in mind, waiting until Tuesday means withstanding a potentially heavy snow and ice storm along with sub-zero temperatures. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/TRIBUNE**

## Carbon monoxide sickens 12

A Northwest Side man who awoke to find some family members passed out and others acting incoherently may have saved them from dying of carbon monoxide poisoning this morning, a fire department spokesman said. Fire department crews treated 12 people sickened by high levels of carbon monoxide in their apartments in a building in the 3600 block of West Lawrence Avenue in Albany Park, Fire Department spokesman Larry Langford said.

## Duncan sticking around

Chicago Public Schools chief Arne Duncan, nominated as the next U.S. education secretary, won't leave the district until after President-elect Obama is sworn in, Mayor Daley said Thursday. Standing alongside Duncan at a news conference at DuSable High School, Daley said he expects to have a replacement picked by the time Duncan leaves Jan. 20. Daley, whose remarks came at an event touting increased funding for a student-led anti-violence project, refused to single out any potential successors.

## No more mixing beer, stimulants

MillerCoors said Thursday it has agreed to stop making beverages that combine beer with caffeine and other stimulants, after coming under fire from public officials in several states. Attorneys general from up to 25 states, including Illinois, have criticized the brewing company for its Sparks beverages, saying high caffeine levels in those high-alcohol brews can mask intoxication. The company also agreed not to produce caffeinated alcoholic beverages in the future.



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# New HIV, AIDS cases down in Chicago

Health department says decline in numbers linked to improved testing, better education

**By Tracy Swartz | REDEYE**  
Fewer new cases of HIV and AIDS in Chicago are being reported as more Chicagoans get screened for sexually transmitted diseases, according to the city Department of Public Health.

The department has been seeing a “slight decline” in the number of new HIV and AIDS cases in the last six years, said Chris Brown, assistant commissioner at the health department in charge of AIDS/HIV programs.

According to the health department, 1,557 Chicagoans were diagnosed with HIV—the virus that causes AIDS—in 2006, the most recent data available. That is down from 1,994 new diagnoses in 2000.

Meanwhile, the number of AIDS diagnoses dipped to 754 in 2006 from 976 in 2000. Brown said he expects these numbers to continue to decline in future years as more people undergo testing for sexually transmitted diseases.

The biggest push for testing for HIV and AIDS occurred Dec. 1 on World AIDS Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic. This year marked the 20th anniversary of the remembrance.

More than 22,000 Chicagoans live with HIV or AIDS, according to the health department. In the upcoming year, Brown said the city hopes to increase its rapid testing measures, which allow people to know the same day of testing whether they are infected with HIV or AIDS.

Besides testing, the city also provides free condoms at its clinics, medical care, mental health assistance, partner notification, counseling and STD literature.

“Getting information is key,” Brown said. “We recommend everyone know their status, whether you’re in a high-risk situation or a low-risk situation.”

The map shows the 94 locations for HIV and AIDS testing sites in Chicago, according to the city and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The map does not include private hospitals and doctors that may test for these infections. [TSWARTZ@TRIBUNE.COM](mailto:TSWARTZ@TRIBUNE.COM)

**KEY TO THE MAP**

The map shows the locations of the HIV/AIDS testing sites in Chicago, though the list is not comprehensive.  
● (94 locations)

**AIDS IN THE CITY**

The prevalence rate of AIDS cases per 100,000 people, based on cases reported to the city, are shown by community areas. The numbers are from 2006, the most recent data available.

- 0-250 cases per 100,000
- 251-500 cases per 100,000
- 501+ cases per 100,000

**NEIGHBORHOODS WITH HIGHEST RATES**

(Per 100,000 people)

<b>Uptown</b>	1,320.2
<b>Edgewater</b>	1,011.3
<b>East Garfield Park</b>	871.6

**NEIGHBORHOODS WITH LOWEST RATES**

(Per 100,000 people)

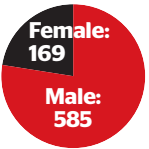
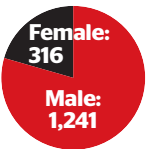
<b>Edison Park</b>	Less than 1
<b>Mt. Greenwood</b>	Less than 1
<b>Archer Heights</b>	39.5

**BREAKING DOWN THE STATS**

Here's a look at the HIV and AIDS epidemic in Chicago by the 2006 numbers.

- 1,557: New HIV diagnoses
- 401: HIV diagnoses for Chicagoans 20-29 years old
- 428: HIV diagnoses for Chicagoans 30-39 years old

- 754: New AIDS diagnoses
- 116: AIDS diagnoses for Chicagoans 20-29 years old
- 204: AIDS diagnoses for Chicagoans 30-39 years old





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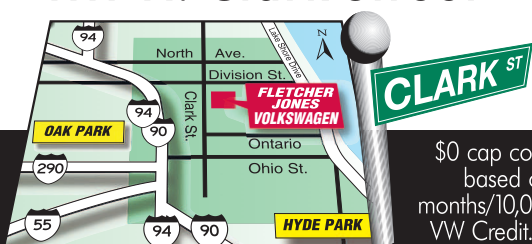
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AP

## 1 Greece violence spikes

Riot police clashed with rock-throwing demonstrators in central Athens on Thursday, sending Christmas shoppers and people in cafes running for cover. Frightened parents scooped up their children from a Christmas carousel in the city's main square and fled.

## 2 Let's make a deal

Speaking on his first official visit to Brazil, Cuban President Raul Castro made an unprecedented offer Thursday to exchange political dissidents jailed in his country for five Cubans imprisoned in the U.S. for espionage.

## 3 Pants down

An appeals court says there will be no new trial for a former District of Columbia judge who sued his dry cleaners for \$54 million over a lost pair of pants.

## 4 Pierced 'gothic kittens'

Humane officers say a Pennsylvania woman from the Wilkes-Barre area marketed "gothic kittens" with ear, neck and tail piercings over the Internet.

## 5 Tough truth

Philadelphia, the city that invented that monument to gluttony, the cheesesteak, is ordering something new for the menu: one of the strongest restaurant labeling laws in the nation. Mayor Michael Nutter on Thursday signed a bill that orders most chain restaurants to display calorie, fat and other information.



## Strip tease

Flights resumed in and out of Las Vegas, but schools and highways were closed Thursday after a record-setting snowfall coated marquees on the Strip, weighed down palm trees and blanketed surrounding mountain areas. The city awoke to clear weather after a storm that left 3.6 inches at McCarran International Airport. It was biggest December snowfall on record there, and the worst for any month since a 7.5-inch accumulation in January 1979, forecasters said. **AP PHOTO**

# Iraqis accused of Baath revival

**7 BAGHDAD** More than 20 employees of Iraq's defense and interior ministries have been arrested on allegations they were plotting to revive Saddam Hussein's outlawed Baath party, government officials said Thursday.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, Yassin Majid, told The Associated Press that 24 employees of the two ministries were arrested on suspicion of "facilitating activities for terrorists and outlaws and officials of the former regime."

An Interior Ministry spokesman, Maj. Gen. Abdul-Karim Khalaf, told reporters that 23 people, primarily traffic police officers, had been arrested over the past five days in a Baath party plot but he dismissed suggestions they were planning a coup.

A third security official said those in custody were believed to have links to al-Awad, or "Return," a Sunni underground organization founded in 2003 to try to restore Saddam and the Baath party to power.

The U.S. military referred all inquiries to the Iraqi government.

Iraq's 2005 constitution bans the Baath party and any group that uses its symbols and ideology "regardless of the name that it adopts." Some Iraqi politicians expressed doubt that the plotters were actively trying to overthrow the government.

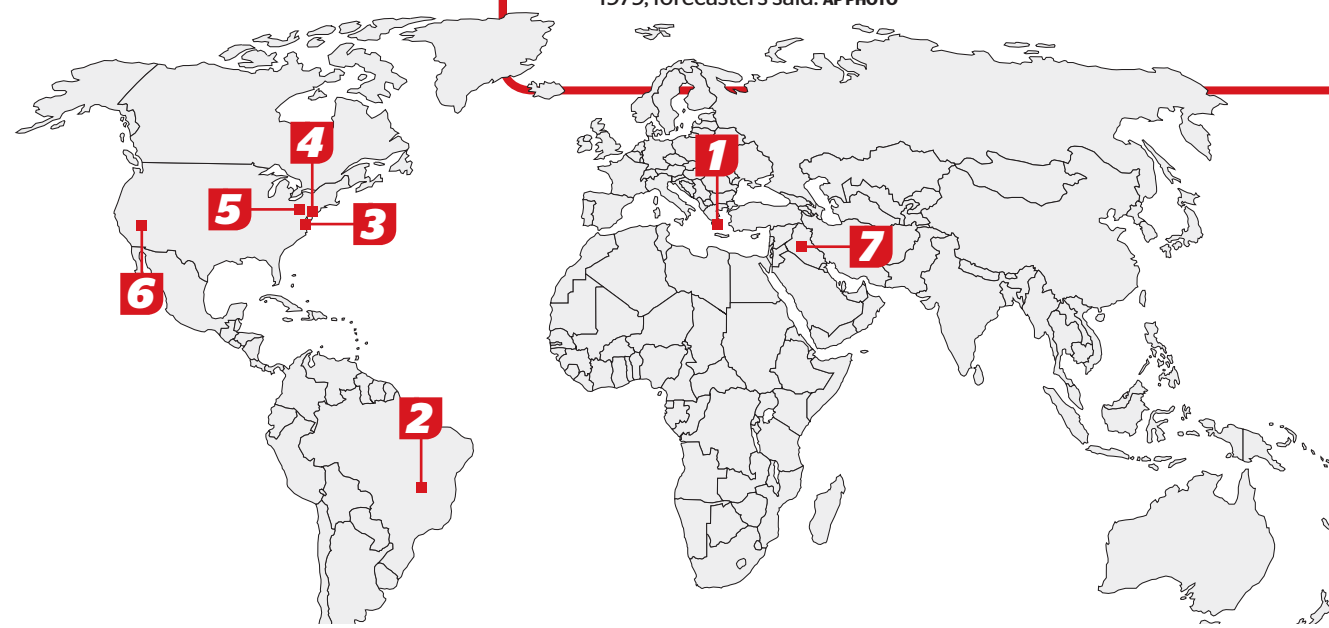
"I think talking about a coup is an exaggeration," Abbas al-Bayati, a senior lawmaker of the Supreme Iraqi Islamic Council, the largest Shiite party, told Al-Arabiya television.



**Saddam Hussein**

### ABOUT BAATH

The Baath party ruled Iraq for 35 years until Saddam's regime was ousted by a U.S.-led invasion in 2003. Outlawing the Baath party was the first official act of the U.S.-run occupation authority that ruled until June 2004. The purge of thousands of Baath party members from government jobs cost the country the services of skilled people who knew how to run ministries, university departments and state companies.







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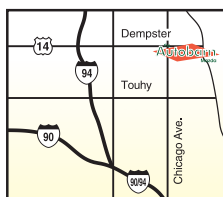
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# sports

# THE BIGGEST LITTLE BOWLS EVER!\*

\* until next week, when bowl games that really mean something start

## College football's bowl season kicks off with a bang—or a whimper

**By Whizzer**

My boy Juice Williams might not be going bowling this year (sniff, sniff), but I'm not gonna let that stop me from enjoying college football's version of March Madness.

Bowl season kicks off this weekend, and I'm determined to get over the fact that Illinois isn't in one. Considering a lot of people won't be watching these games, lemme help. Here's what I see happening in the first five bowl games.



STARTING CLOCKWISE IN THE UPPER LEFT, FRESNO STATE RB ANTHONY HARDING, WAKE FOREST QB RILEY SKINNER, SOUTH FLORIDA QB MATT GROTHE, BYU QB MAX HALL AND SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI RB DAMION FLETCHER



# PARTY DECK

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### EAGLEBANK BOWL 10 A.M. SAT., ESPN Navy (8-4) vs. Wake Forest (7-5)

I'll be honest with ya here at the risk of hurting my sports credibility: I had no idea this bowl even existed. I see the Wake Forest marching band is listed as the halftime entertainment. Shows you where this bowl ranks in importance.

As for the game itself, Navy lost to Duke's football team—not the basketball team, but the *football* team. That doesn't fill me with confidence.

**WAKE FOREST 30, NAVY 20**



### NEW MEXICO BOWL 1:30 P.M. SAT., ESPN Colorado St. (6-6) vs. Fresno St. (7-5)

Albuquerque is the ballooning capital of the world, I learned. What does that have to do with the game? Nothing. This is really simple for me. I'm going with the Bulldogs of Fresno State. Big surprise, eh?

**FRESNO STATE 31, COLORADO STATE 13**



### ST. PETERSBURG (FLA.) BOWL 3:30 P.M. SAT., ESPN2 South Florida (7-5) vs. Memphis (6-6)

Memphis coach Tommy West's curfew for his players on Tuesday was 1 a.m. I've been to St. Pete, and believe me, nothing's going on there past 9. The Tigers, by the way, aren't as good as Memphis' basketball team was last season. South Florida by two touchdowns. They are "home" after all.

**USF 24, MEMPHIS 10**



### LAS VEGAS BOWL 7 P.M. SAT., ESPN BYU (10-2) vs. Arizona (7-5)

It's the Cougars vs. Wildcats, and I love a good feline fight! Which team do I back? Hmm, according to Canine Code 16.1 (B), I am not allowed to back any team with "cats" in its nickname. So as much as it pains me, I'm picking the Cougs.

**BYU 38, ARIZONA 19**



### NEW ORLEANS BOWL 7 P.M. SUN., ESPN Troy (8-4) vs. Southern Mississippi (6-6)

"Troy" was not a good movie, although Brad Pitt looked great with long hair, wouldn't you agree? I've tried to grow mine out, but I keep stepping on it. Not good.

Troy, however, is a pretty good team. But I'm going with the Golden Eagles in this one. They'll squeak it out. Just a gut feeling. Or that could just be the result of spending so much time thinking about these bowl openers.

**SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI 24, TROY 22**

### Field of broken dreams

Tropicana Field, home to the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team, is being configured for football just as Wrigley Field in Chicago is being prepared for a hockey game.

According to the St. Petersburg Bowl Web site, the field will be in the home plate corner of the stadium, extending down the first-base line into right field.

The Rays faced the Philadelphia Phillies in the World Series but could not capture their first title. University of South Florida is the pseudo home team, so perhaps the Bulls can bring a title to the city.

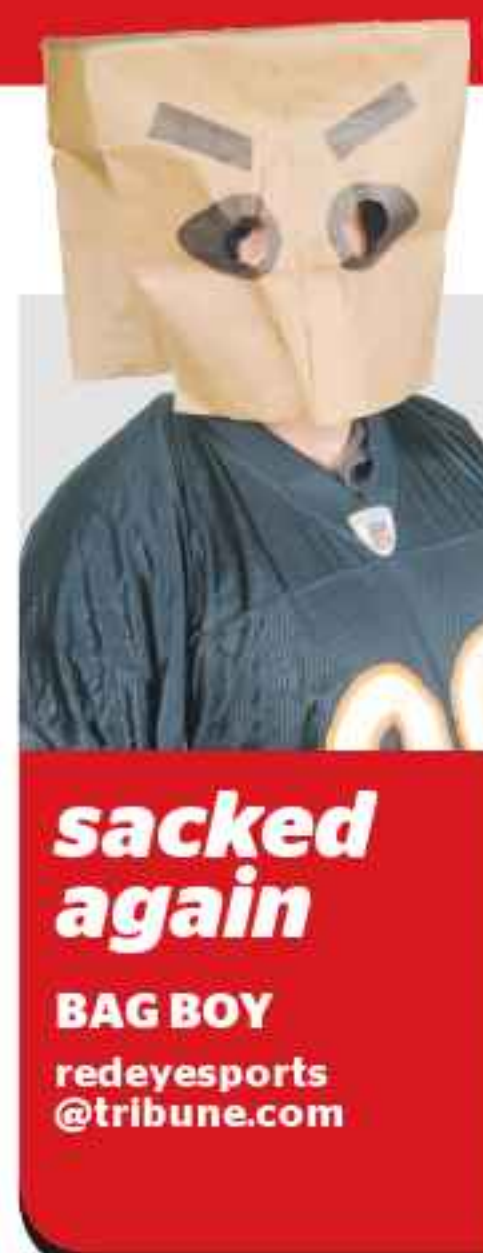
### Deja view

EagleBank Bowl teams Wake Forest and Navy already have faced each other once this season, with the visiting Midshipmen winning 24-17 on Sept. 27.

### The Hoff to sing the anthem

David Hasselhoff, actor, YouTube star, musician and, most important, The Most-Watched TV Star in the World, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, will sing the national anthem before Saturday's Las Vegas Bowl.

FROM WIRE SERVICES



# You won't find these under a tree

Merry Christmas, sports-minded people of Chicago. I thought we would exchange gifts. I'll start by giving mine, and then I'll submit a list of what I want.

#### To Bears GM Jerry Angelo,

A beautiful envelope, and inside is a simple note. It says: "Draft me a quality wide receiver or leave town."

#### To Bulls GM John Paxson,

Two tickets to the upcoming Final Four. Also included are some instructions. They are: Please locate the hungriest players on these teams. They should be able to shoot, dribble, score, rebound and play defense. And by the way, don't skimp. Looking at your roster, you're going to need about 10 of these guys.

#### For the vaunted Bears defense,

We have ... a mirror. I would like all of you to look into it, and you'll see: one Pro Bowler. Yet, there's like eight guys getting paid like a Pro Bowler. Hmm, you're generally older, slower and less aggressive than years past. The Minnesota, Tampa and Atlanta losses are on you guys. Happy friggin' holidays.

#### Look at this, Kyle Orton.

It's a new deal. Yes, you can play. Yes, you can stay. We'll get you some help—in fact here you go—it's a couple of offensive linemen to go along with

Chris Williams. Enjoy.

#### For the Cubs,

I have a box. In it is something called "a pair." A pair of what? It doesn't really matter. Just remember this when you get bounced from the playoffs because nobody on your team can grow a pair.

#### For Ozzie Guillen,

It's a book, a children's book. It's called "Excuse Me! A Little Book of Manners!" It's real easy to read. I expect you to have the basics memorized by Spring Training. And then forget them because it's too much fun!

#### To Hawks president John McDonough,

It's a map of Chicago. Included is this note: "Congratulations, you guys are back on the map, we've missed you." Also, make the playoffs or else.

#### Now for my list:

I want only the best: players, coaches, GMs, organizations, facilities. It's still the best sports town in the country—I think we deserve it.

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**Monika Carney  
847-813-9490**

## West North Shore

### Luxury Condominiums

1625 - 1629 West North Shore  
www.NewInRogersPark.com



Luxury Condominium conversion beautifully appointed with hardwood floors, granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, in the heart of Rogers Park for as low as **\$527\* a month!** \*with 20% down, does not include property taxes or monthly association, buyers must qualify.

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## Ashton Place

### Luxury Condominiums

623 Brummel Street, Unit G  
Evanston IL, 60202



Evanston's newest condo conversion. 2 bedroom 1 bathroom have stunning deluxe kitchens, Stainless Steel Appliances, maple cabinets, granite countertops, plentiful parking, all for **\$770\* a month!** \*with 20% down, does not include property taxes or monthly association, buyers must qualify.

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## Reba Place

### Luxury Condominiums

900 Reba Place, Unit 3, Evanston IL 60202



Great location and tremendous value. Hardwood floors through-out, recessed lighting, maple cabinets, stainless steel appliances, granite counters, 9 foot ceilings, and soaker tubs. All this for **\$1,216\* a month!** \*with 20% down, does not include property taxes or monthly association, buyers must qualify.

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## Rogers

### Gorgeous Glenview Home!

1785 Rogers, Lot A, Glenview IL 60025



Stunning new five bedroom, six bath home on lovely lot! Travertine, Brazilian cherry floors. Open floor plan; huge granite kitchen open to grand family room. Three fireplaces, first level fifth bed/office, lovely master suite, all bedrooms en-suite, mud room. Basement with rec room, office/sixth bed, sauna! all this for **\$4,253\* a month!** \*with 30% down, does not include property taxes, buyers must qualify.

**Martha May  
847-533-0559**

## Windsor

### Gorgeous Glenview Home!

710 Windsor, Glenview, IL 60025



Gorgeous new five bedroom, five and one half bath Colonial in prestigious East Glenview. Travertine, Brazilian cherry floors. First level office or fifth bedroom. Granite kitchen with island. Five fireplaces, wet bars, steam shower, central vacuum. Huge basement has rec room, sauna, bath, sixth bedroom. Three-car garage. **\$1,999,000** \*with 30% down, does not include property taxes, buyers must qualify.

**Martha May  
847-533-0559**

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3 car gar. **All this for only \$7,980\* a month!** \*with 30% down, does not include property taxes, buyers must qualify.

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**watch  
dog**

**WHIZZER**  
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Sports viewing dilemma of the weekend: Do you watch NFL games and coverage that could spoil Monday's Bears game by revealing that playoff spots already have been clinched? I'm not sure if anything could spoil a good butt-whuppin' of the Packers, even if the win doesn't get the Bears into the postseason. As long as they cover the spread, I'm happy. Here now, my TV picks.



**NBA  
BULLS AT  
BOSTON**

6:30 p.m. CSN

You know the running of the Bulls? This is the ruining of the Bulls.



**NHL  
BLACKHAWKS  
AT CALGARY**

8 p.m. CSN Plus  
Big game here. I can't believe the Hawks actually are in the thick of it.

**GOLF  
CHEVRON  
WORLD  
CHALLENGE**

2 p.m. TGC  
This is Tiger Woods' tourney, so, you know, it has that going for it.



A Zamboni ice-clearing machine rolls off a flatbed truck as it is delivered Thursday at Wrigley Field for the NHL's Winter Classic outdoor hockey game scheduled for New Year's Day. Planners hope to start laying down ice Friday if the weather cooperates. **AP PHOTO**

# Wrigley's new Big Z

Winter Classic transforms stadium into Zamboni wonderland

Usually at Wrigley Field, it's a big Zambrano (Carlos) that draws the attention, the 6-foot-5, 255-pound ace of the Cubs' pitching staff.

On Thursday, two weeks before the Winter Classic between the Detroit Red Wings and Blackhawks, it was the Zambonis everyone was watching.

As the two ice resurfacing machines were being taken off a flatbed truck, the brakes on one of the vehicles locked and it went tumbling off the back.

"We were trying to offload it. It stalled and we tried to lift it up to start it up again, and we found out that the brakes were frozen," said Dan Craig, the NHL's facilities operation manager. "Everybody saw the little baby come flying off there."

The machine survived the fall and so did the driver, and both were OK, Craig reported on a

day when workers were laying down the base for the rink with aluminum sheets, hoping to start the ice-making Friday—if the weather cooperated.

According to the NHL, more than 400 workers will take part in transforming the second-oldest ballpark in the major leagues into a hockey venue.

They will use 52,000 feet of plywood and 32,000 feet of decking in the project, along with 20,000 gallons of water to create ice and 350 gallons of paint. Scaffolding being put up in front of the famed brick outfield walls at Wrigley Field will be used to recreate the ivy that is green in the summer and also used for advertising.

Craig said it takes about 24 hours to create an inch of ice, and he hopes to have an inch or an inch and a quarter down by Monday, even with the second winter storm of the week forecast for Chicago on Thursday night.

## HOMETOWN HITS



White Sox Manager Ozzie Guillen is certain the world financial crisis will have an impact on baseball, including the way clubs are put together and play the game. "The teams will have to be made up of a mix of prospective young players and veterans," said Guillen, who led the White Sox to the 2005 World Series championship. "One must trust in the work that the minor leagues are doing."



Dave Smith, a former All-Star closer who holds the Houston Astros record for games pitched, died Wednesday. He was 53. He played with Houston from 1980-90 before finishing his career with two seasons with the Cubs.



**NEXT GAME  
vs. Southern**  
7:30 P.M. FRIDAY

## THURSDAY'S RESULTS



» The Wolves game at San Antonio did not end before press time.

## MIXED MARTIAL ARTS Fighter, wife shot to death

An Ultimate Fighting Championship fighter and his wife were found shot to death in a Laguna Niguel, Calif., condominium in what authorities said was an apparent murder-suicide. Justin Levens and his wife, Sarah McLean-Levens, were found Wednesday, Orange County sheriff's officials said. Levens, 28, competed in UFC and other organizations.

## NASCAR Drivers to be drug-tested

NASCAR will test drivers for performance-enhancing drugs next month under a tougher policy that also bans using illegal drugs and abusing prescription medications. NASCAR likely will test drivers the third week of January, and crew members must submit results from an approved lab by Jan. 16, according to documents obtained Thursday by AP.

## SOCCER Kick kills pigeon

He hit a birdie—but this wasn't golf. A soccer player in Buenos Aires made a powerful kick that went toward a group of pigeons looking for seeds in the grass. An explosion of feathers followed and the pigeons flew away—except one. Several players on the San Lorenzo team surrounded the wounded bird as it tried to fly away but then collapsed.

## THURSDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

The Indianapolis game at Jacksonville did not end before press time.



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# Big John

John Margelewski breaks free from the chains of the Internet and leaps into your paper. How'd he do it? He signed up at the address above.

TOPIC	TRACY SWARTZ tswartz@tribune.com	JIMMY GREENFIELD jgreenfield@tribune.com	SUPRIYA DOSHI sdoshi@tribune.com	THAT GUY thatguy@tribune.com	JOHN MARGELEWSKI redeyesports@tribune.com
<b>1</b> The Bulls facing defending champs the Celtics in Boston is like ...	... a South Side holiday party with Irishmen trying to take lots of shots before the buzzer.	... a pebble trying to stop a boulder falling toward the bottom of a mountain.	... the Bulls facing pretty much anyone anywhere.	... me going to a Victoria's Secret pajama party.	... the Globetrotters facing a team of senior citizens?
<b>2</b> The Blackhawks are on a road trip through Canada. Imagine it.	I can't. Most Hawks are barred from crossing borders, even ones drawn by maple syrup.	I would but I forgot my imaginary passport.	Look! Out there! People who like hockey, eh!	Lots of ice and moose burgers.	Trick question ... Canada doesn't have roads.
<b>3</b> What are the chances the Bears are out of the playoffs before their Monday game?	A Bearadox: Don't you have to be in the playoffs first to be out of them?	58 percent	Probably the same as the chance it'll be cold this winter.	I'm setting up a bout of strip dreidel if anyone's game? E-mail me.	Never doubt the magic of Kyle Orton. Ever.
<b>4</b> Drop some knowledge about this weekend's bowl games.	Las Vegas Bowl will be getting Hoff as lead singer. Sure to be a tear-jerker.	I just did and now my brain's empty.	Illinois isn't in one. Northwestern is. What else is there to know about bowls?	Umm, where is my exclusive VIP invite to the Bull & Bear grand opening?	Set your TiVos: David Hasselhoff is singing the anthem at the Las Vegas Bowl.
<b>5</b> What sports-related gift would you buy for someone for Xmas this year?	Bears defensive presence for the fans.	I'd buy John McDonough a puck-shaped baseball.	A poster of Joakim Noah for Tracy to gaze at.	A used Michael Phelps Speedo.	Golf clubs for the Detroit Lions.

# Fan's best friend.

**Bulls at Celtics in HD**  
Coverage begins tonight at 6:30 pm on CSN

**Blackhawks at Calgary**  
Coverage begins tonight at 7:30 pm on CSN+



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# metromix



## Holiday style

Show off your charitable side, sport another ugly sweater and more weekend fun

**weekend  
best bets**

**By Beth Geraci**  
METROMIX@  
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### PICK OF THE WEEK

#### Benefits of style »

When it comes to stepping it up for charity, the **Holiday Fashion Show** walks the walk. The benefit for underprivileged children features a fashion show of winter wear from local designers James De Colon and Susi Garcia, who headlined Chicago Latino Fashion Week last fall. Indulge in appetizers, cocktails, wine and beer while watching models strut the catwalk. 8 p.m. Friday. \$20. Proceeds benefit the Boys and Girls Club and other charities supported by **chicagotoydrive.org**. Moda, 25 W. Hubbard St. 773-517-9593.



**Moda**  
FILE FOR METROMIX

## PARTY PICKS

### That's a wrap

Holiday gifts are on everyone's mind, but before you BYO ribbons, tape or scissors to **The Wrap Party**, be warned: It's not that kind of bash. The end-of-year hip-hop extravaganza features live sets by MCs Mikkey Halsted and Lid Law, with DJs Steve and Word and performances by breakdancers. Also includes \$5 vodka cocktails and CD giveaways from Santa. 9 p.m. Saturday. \$10; no cover with RSVP. Funky Buddha Lounge, 728 W. Grand Ave. 312-804-5144.



### ☞ Sweater weather

If it's loud and has sequins and/or snowmen, it's going to be a perfect fit for **Chicago Sport and Social Club's Ugly Sweater Holiday Party**. Dress in head-to-toe tacky garb for a chance to win two tickets to the club's New Year's Eve party at Moe's Cantina in Wrigleyville. Bring a toy to donate to the International Association of Fire Fighters and partake in a hosted bar (8-10 p.m.). 8 p.m. Friday. Toy donations required (no cash). Rebel Bar & Grill, 3462 N. Clark St. 773-975-2010. RSVP required by 5 p.m. Friday: **chicagosocial.com**

### Devine affair

Looking for a killer dance party? **The Kill Hannah Afterparty** is poised to deliver. Singer Mat Devine and bassist Greg Corner extend their night in Wicker Park (after playing a private show at nearby Subterranean) to spin new wave, '80s, indie rock and more with DJs Ryan Paradise, Heaven Malone, Derek Berry and St. Louis mixmaster Jesse Jamz. 9 p.m. Friday. No cover. Debonair Social Club, 1575 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-227-7990. RSVP requested: **chicagosuicideclub.com/killhannah**

## BEST OF THE REST

### « Say 'Uncle'

Are you in hysterics over holiday shopping? Trade in long lines for laughs when funnyman and "SNL" alum Tim Meadows takes the stage for **Tim Meadows: Uncle's Brother**. The comic returns to his roots at iO to perform a long-form improv set with Second City mainstage cast members Brad Morris and Joe Canale. 10 p.m. Sunday. Through Jan. 25. \$10. iO, 3541 N. Clark St. 773-880-0199.

### Make a run for it

Whether you like running for exercise or beer, make a dash for the **Seventh Annual Great Chicago Anthrax Scare Hash/Santa Hat Run**. Don a Santa hat and a hazmat suit (provided, in case you don't have one) and follow a trail of flour, chalk and toilet paper through a 4-mile stretch of Lincoln Park. After the run, refresh with wine, domestic drafts, a DJ and a buffet of pulled pork sandwiches, mac 'n' cheese and cornbread. 2 p.m. Saturday. \$35-\$45. The Beaumont, 2020 N. Halsted St. 312-399-1288.

### Movie mayhem

Big laughs are in store at **"Cinematic Titanic,"** the new project from the cast and creator of cult TV comedy series "Mystery Science Theater 3000." Watch as show creator Joel Hodgson and actors Trace Beaulieu, J. Elvis Weinstein, Mary Jo Pehl and Frank Conniff riff on the B-horror flick "Blood of the Vampires," adding their own facetious commentary and projecting their silhouettes onscreen as the film plays. 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. Friday. \$35. Lakeshore Theater, 3175 N. Broadway. 773-472-3492. Tickets: **lakeshoretheater.com**





**ADDICTION SPORTS BAR AND GRILL**  
\$4 Harp, Bass and Guinness bottles, \$5 glasses of wine, \$7 all-you-can-eat fish fry; 1023 W. Lake St., Chicago, 312-421-8845.

**BIG CHICKS**  
\$5 cheeseburgers, half-price select entrees (5-10 p.m.); 5024 N. Sheridan Rd. 773-728-5511.

**CRIMSON LOUNGE**  
9 p.m.: DJ Ravi. The Playboy Mansion's resident turntablist remixes beats live on a drum set. No cover; 333 N. Dearborn St. Hotel Sax. 312-923-2453.

**HAMILTON'S PUB**  
\$3.50 Goose Island 312 drafts, \$3.75 Bacardi cocktails; \$7.50 lunch specials (11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.); 6341 N. Broadway. 773-764-8133.

**HIDEOUT**  
\$2.50 Berghoff bottles; 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

**INNJOY**  
\$4 Heineken, Heineken Light and Amstel Light bottles, \$6 Jager bombs; 2051 W. Division St. 773-394-2066.

**JUNIOR'S SPORTS LOUNGE**  
\$1 domestic bottles; 724 W. Maxwell St. 312-421-2277.

**LAKEVIEW BROADCASTING CO.**  
Half-price food until 8 p.m., \$3 kamikaze shots, \$4 Corona bottles, \$5 Level cocktails; 3542 N. Halsted St. 773-857-2444.

**THE LOFT**  
8:30 p.m.: Singles Speed Dating Party. Meet other singles for fast dates. Drink specials include \$2 glasses of champagne, \$2 domestic bottles and \$3 select martinis and mixed drinks; \$35. Registration required: [dateanddash.com](http://dateanddash.com); 15 W. Division St. 800-957-3274.

**MAMBO GRILL**  
Half-price mojitos and mojito pitchers, \$3.95 bar menu (3-6 p.m.); 412 N. Clark St. 312-467-9797.

**MYSTIC CELT**  
\$4 Amstel Light bottles, \$5 raspberry vodka and lemonades, \$8.95 fish and chips; 3443 N. Southport Ave. 773-529-8550.

**OLE LOUNGE**  
\$4 caipirinhas, half-price select tapas (5-7 p.m.); 2812 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-388-3500.

**THE PONY**  
\$3 Sierra Nevada and Newcastle pints; 1638 W. Belmont Ave. 773-828-5055.

**RED IVY**  
\$4 Absolut flavored cocktails, \$5 Belvedere cocktails, \$8 Belvedere martinis; 3525 N. Clark St. 773-472-0900.

**STONE LOTUS**  
DJs spin 10 p.m.-4 a.m.; 873 N. Orleans St. 312-440-9680.



## Metromix's holiday party picks

**LIAR'S CLUB**  
9 p.m.: A Not So Silent Night. DJs Abducted, Kampfire Jay, Jesse Jamz, Derek Specs and others spin on two floors. \$2 PBRs, \$3 Kilo Kai shots and \$4 Kilo Kai cocktails. No cover. RSVP required: [custom-vibes.com](http://custom-vibes.com); 1665 W. Fullerton Ave. 773-665-1110.

**MANOR**  
10 p.m.: Winter Wonderland. Bring a new, unwrapped toy and indulge in a hosted cocktail reception (10-11 p.m.); 642 N. Clark St. 312-475-1390.

**ENCLAVE**  
9 p.m.: The Chicago Holiday Party. DJ Spider spins. Includes appetizers and cocktails (9 p.m.-midnight). \$35. Tickets: [neptix.com](http://neptix.com); 220 W. Chicago Ave. 312-654-0234.

**SHEFFIELD'S**  
7 p.m.: Apartment Savvy Annual Holiday Charity Event. Bring a toy to donate to Children's Memorial Hospital, then partake in one of two open bar packages. Howard and The White Boys play live blues at 9

p.m. \$20-\$30 with a toy donation, \$10 more without a toy donation; 3258 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-281-4989.

**ROCKS LAKEVIEW**  
8 p.m.: Holiday Sweater Party at Rocks Lakeview. Wear a corny, festive top for a chance to win \$100 (11 p.m.). \$7 holiday-themed martinis and \$3 shots. No cover; 3463 N. Broadway. 773-472-0493. A simultaneous bash also takes place at Rocks Lincoln Park; 301 W. Schubert Ave. 773-472-7738.

**SUBTERRANEAN**  
\$4 Stoli flavored cocktails, \$5 appetizer combo, DJs Trew, Intel, Maker and Pickel spin. \$5; 2011 W. North Ave. 773-278-6600.

**TRADER TODD'S**  
\$5 sunset punch, \$6.95 shrimp boil (5-8 p.m.); 3216 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-975-8383.

**TRANSIT**  
DJs Frankie J, Juan the

Predator and Green Eyes spin. \$15; 1431 W. Lake St. 312-491-8600.

**UNCLE FATTY'S**  
\$1 Bud Light drafts, \$4 Red Stripe, Modelo and Pacifico bottles, \$5 Kilo

Kai cocktails; 2833 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-477-3661.

**VICTORY LIQUORS**  
\$3 Kilo Kai cocktails, \$5 40-ounce King Cobra bottles, \$5 O bombs;

2610 N. Halsted St. 773-348-5600.

**VILLAINS**  
\$3 Jameson shots, \$4 microbrew bottles, \$4 all drafts; 649 S. Clark St. 312-356-9992.



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For parking, maps and  
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**FRIDAY**

**AMERICAN ENGLISH**  
9 p.m. \$12. FitzGerald's,  
6615 Roosevelt Rd.,  
Berwyn. 708-788-2118.

**AMERICAN TAXI**  
7 p.m. \$8-\$10. Beat  
Kitchen, 2100  
W. Belmont Ave.  
housecallent.com

**BABY ALRIGHT**  
9 p.m. \$7. Ronny's,  
2101 N. California Ave.  
mpshows.com

**THE BITTER TEARS,  
BOTTOMLESS PIT,  
STNNING, DEAD GODS**  
8 p.m. \$7-\$10. Bottom  
Lounge, 1375 W. Lake  
St. 312-666-6775.

**BLINK**  
10 p.m. \$10 suggested  
donation. Uncommon  
Ground on Devon,  
1401 W. Devon Ave. 773-  
465-9801.

**THE CONGRESS  
OF STARLINGS, ANNE  
HARRIS, IT'S A GIRL**  
9 p.m. \$8. The Viaduct,  
3111 N. Western Ave.  
773-296-6024.

**THE DANIELSON  
DEVICE, HANS  
CONDOR, SPYRO  
AND THE  
PARTHENONS**  
9 p.m. \$5. The Kinetic  
Playground, 1113 W.  
Lawrence Ave. 773-769-  
5483.

**DAWN XIANA  
MOON, ERICK  
WILSON AND EMPTY  
HEARTS**  
10 p.m. Tips/donations.  
Uncommon Ground on  
Clark, 3800 N. Clark St.  
773-929-3680.

**ELLIS PAUL**  
7:30 p.m. \$15. Schubas,  
3159 N. Southport Ave.  
773-525-2508.

**THE HEAT BIRDS,  
BOB DEY'S TANK  
ENGINE MAN**  
10 p.m. \$5. Morseland,  
1218 W. Morse Ave. 773-  
764-8900.

**HENRY JOHNSON  
ORGAN EXPRESS**  
9 p.m. \$15. Pops for  
Champagne, 601 N.  
State St. 312-266-7677.

**LUBRIPHONIC,  
TURBINE**  
10:30 p.m. \$8. Beat  
Kitchen, 2100  
W. Belmont Ave.  
housecallent.com

**MARISELA**  
8 p.m. \$35-\$60.  
Congress Theatre, 2135  
N. Milwaukee Ave. 312-  
559-1212.

**MIDWEST BAND  
CONVENTION  
ALLSTARS**  
8 and 10 p.m. Cover  
varies. Jazz Showcase,  
806 S. Plymouth Ct.  
312-360-0234.

**SISTER HAZEL,  
PAT MCGEE TRIO**  
9 p.m. \$25-\$26.50.  
House of Blues, 329 N.  
Dearborn St. 312-923-  
2000.

**SONGS OF  
GOOD CHEER**  
7:30 p.m. \$32-\$40.  
Harris Theater for  
Music and Dance  
in Millennium  
Park, 205 E. Randolph  
Drive. 312-334-7777.

**STRANGE  
ARRANGEMENT,  
MY DEAR DISCO,  
JOBU**  
9 p.m. \$8.  
Martyrs', 3855 N.  
Lincoln Ave. 773-404-  
9869.

**SUDDEN DARK,  
ABANDON THE  
RADIO, SEVEN DAY  
SONNET, THE UPTONS**  
8:30 p.m. \$9. Elbo  
Room, 2871 N. Lincoln  
Ave. 773-549-5549.

**THIS MUST BE THE  
BAND, TOMORROW  
MUSIC ORCHESTRA,  
MAURICE**  
10 p.m. \$10. Empty  
Bottle, 1035 N. Western  
Ave. 773-276-3600.

**SATURDAY**

**2\*SWEET,  
FIREWORKS, THIS  
TIME NEXT YEAR**  
7 p.m. \$12-\$14.  
Subterranean,  
2011 W. North Ave.  
housecallent.com

»» page 34

## Metromix's top shows

**AS TALL AS LIONS**  
New Yorkers let indie  
rock shimmer and  
glow more than usual.  
With *New Ghosts*,  
A Lull. 7 p.m. Fri. \$10-  
\$13. Reggie's Rock  
Club, 2109 S. State St.  
312-949-0120.

**SCOTLAND YARD  
GOSPEL CHOIR,  
TOM SCHRAEDER  
AND HIS EGO,  
THE FABULOUS  
PUTTERBAUGH  
SISTERS, DJ  
SCREEBLE DEE**  
The show is dubbed a  
"Holiday Spectacular."  
It will definitely, at least,  
be a spectacle. 9 p.m.  
Fri. \$10. Double Door,  
1572 N. Milwaukee Ave.  
773-489-3160.

**THE HUSH SOUND**  
Locals know pop  
doesn't always need  
to aim for edgy.  
With *Treaty of Paris*,  
*This Is Me Smiling*.  
6:30 p.m. Fri. \$18-\$20.  
Metro, 3730 N. Clark

**As Tall As Lions**

St. 773-549-0203.

**ON WE**  
Where pop bleeds  
into furious  
confession. With  
*The Dynamos*, *The  
Stoneflies*. 9 p.m. Fri.  
\$6-\$8. Abbey Pub and  
Restaurant,

3420 W. Grace St. 773-  
478-4408.

**TEN OUT OF TENN  
CHRISTMAS TOUR:  
GRIFFIN HOUSE,  
KATIE HERZIG,  
TYLER JAMES,  
JEREMY LISTER,  
BUTTERFLY**

**BOUCHER, KS  
ROADS, MATTHEW  
PERRYMAN JONES,  
ANDY DAVIS,  
TRENT DABBS**  
A pop-rock team  
effort. 10 p.m. Fri.  
\$15. Schubas, 3159 N.  
Southport Ave. 773-  
525-2508.

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»» page 33

**APOCALYPSE**  
**HOBOKEN, LYNARDS**  
**INNARDS, AMERICAN**  
**DRAFT, PAPILLION,**  
**TONGUES, VETERANS,**  
**THE HOUSE THAT**  
**GLORIA VANDERBILT,**  
**VACATION BIBLE**  
**SCHOOL**

5 p.m. Cover varies.  
Reggie's Rock Club,  
2109 S. State St. 312-  
949-0120.

**THE AUGUST, DAN**  
**HUBBARD AND**  
**THE HUMADORS**  
10 p.m. \$10 suggested  
donation. Uncommon  
Ground on Devon, 1401  
W. Devon Ave. 773-465-  
9801.

**BREAKERS BROKEN,**  
**HOW FAR TO AUSTIN,**  
**GHOSTHOUSE,**  
**JACKPOT DONNIE,**  
**SETH BRADLEY, ZACK**  
**WEBER, DIATRIBE,**  
**BAU DOWN AND FAM**  
7 p.m. \$10. Logan

Square Auditorium,  
2539 N. Kedzie Ave.  
773-728-6000.

**ELLIS PAUL**  
Noon. \$10, children  
4 and under free.  
Schubas, 3159 N.  
Southport Ave. 773-525-  
2508.

**GREEN TANGERINES,**  
**THE STATE AFFAIR,**  
**THE INTRODUCTION,**  
**THE REWRITES,**  
**GARAVE CURE**  
12:30 p.m. \$8-\$9.  
Beat Kitchen, 2100  
W. Belmont Ave.  
housecallent.com

**HANNAH FRANK,**  
**DAN WALLACE**  
10 p.m. Tips/donations.  
Uncommon Ground on  
Clark, 3800 N. Clark St.  
773-929-3680.

**JUDSON CLAIBORNE,**  
**DANIEL KNOX,**  
**GP FOLK/HATHAWAY,**  
**THE KEYS**  
10 p.m. \$8. Empty

Bottle, 1035 N. Western  
Ave. 773-276-3600.

**KILL HANNAH,**  
**INNERPARTYSYSTEM,**  
**GO MOTION, DARK**  
**WAVE DISCO DJS**  
6:45 p.m. \$20. Metro,  
3730 N. Clark St. 773-  
549-0203.

**KUMASFEST**  
9 p.m. \$15. Double Door,  
1572 N. Milwaukee Ave.  
773-489-3160.

**LONDON CALLING,**  
**ALL MODS CONNED,**  
**DAG JUHLIN,**  
**MEMBERS OF THE**  
**MIDNIGHT SHOWS,**  
**MEGA SUPER**  
**ULTRA, RED PLASTIC**  
**BUDDHA AND**  
**SKAPONE, BEN-SITY,**  
**LOU CARLOZO**  
10 p.m. \$10. Schubas,  
3159 N. Southport Ave.  
773-525-2508.

**LOS BORRACHOS,**  
**ATYPICAL**  
**SCIENCE, SISTER**

**SWITCHBLADE**  
10 p.m. \$8. Martyrs',  
3855 N. Lincoln Ave.  
773-404-9869.

**MICHAEL JOHNSON,**  
**AL DAY TRIO**  
7:30 p.m. \$20. SPACE,  
1245 Chicago Ave.,  
Evanston. 847-492-  
8860.

**NEAL ALGER,**  
**TYPHANIE**  
**MONIQUE QUINTET**  
8 p.m. \$10. The Morse  
Theatre, 1328 Morse  
Ave. 773-654-5100.

**SISTER HAZEL,**  
**PAT MCGEE TRIO,**  
**LUKE MULLHOLLAND**  
9 p.m. \$25-\$26.50.  
House of Blues, 329 N.  
Dearborn St. 312-923-  
2000.

**TODD HEMBROOK**  
**AND THE**  
**HEMISPHERES**  
9 p.m. \$7-\$10. Bottom  
Lounge, 1375 W. Lake  
St. 312-666-6775.

**WHOLEHEARTED,**  
**ALL TO HELL,**  
**AFTER THE QUARREL,**  
**RIVERSIDE**  
6 p.m. \$6-\$8. Beat  
Kitchen, 2100  
W. Belmont Ave.  
housecallent.com

### Sunday

**8 PER SECOND,**  
**THE BLACKWING**  
**ORCHESTRA,**  
**PROCESS, HEAVENS**  
**HAVE STRAYED,**  
**SULFOX**  
8 p.m. \$5-\$8. Reggie's  
Rock Club, 2109 S. State  
St. 312-949-0120.

**THE BLAMERS,**  
**OVERMAN**  
8:30 p.m. \$7. Elbo  
Room, 2871 N. Lincoln  
Ave. 773-549-5549.

**EMPIRES, COMPANY**  
**OF THIEVES, 1997**  
6:30 p.m. \$8-\$10.  
Subterranean,  
2011 W. North Ave.  
housecallent.com

**THE LONELIEST**  
**MONK, LES OURSES,**  
**THIN HYMNS**  
9 p.m. \$3. Empty Bottle,  
1035 N. Western Ave.  
773-276-3600.

**THE REAL CHRISTS,**  
**ROUTINE SCHEME,**  
**THE HOLLYWOOD**  
**NIGHTMARES**  
9 p.m. \$7. Ronny's,  
2101 N. California Ave.  
mpshows.com

**RUE, INDIAN,**  
**O'L SCRATH,**  
**BATTLEFIELD,**  
**ACROSS TUNDRAS,**  
**RADID RABBIT,**  
**BENEATH OBLIVIAN,**  
**DRUG HONKEY**  
8 p.m. \$15-\$20.  
Double Door, 1572 N.  
Milwaukee Ave. 773-  
489-3160.

**YOURSELF AND THE**  
**AIR, AKTAR AKTAR,**  
**PET LIONS, THE GLIDE**  
8 p.m. \$8-\$10. Bottom  
Lounge, 1375 W. Lake  
St. 312-666-6775.

### ON-SALE TICKETS

#### On sale 10 a.m. Friday

**Big Head Todd**  
**and the Monsters,**  
Friday, April 3,  
Saturday, April 4 (\$28-  
\$30, 17+) at House of  
Blues.

**Jon McLaughlin,**  
Friday, Feb. 20 (\$13-\$15,  
all ages) at House of  
Blues.

#### On sale noon Friday

**The Airborne Toxic**  
**Event,** Saturday, Feb.  
28 (\$12-\$15, 18+) at  
Schubas.

**Sara Bareilles,**  
Tuesday, March 3 (\$25,  
21+) at Schubas.

#### On sale 4 p.m. Friday

**Thursday, Four Year**  
**Strong,**  
**Pierce the Veil,**  
**Cancer Bats, Bring**  
**Me the Horizon,**  
Thursday, March 12  
(\$25.75, all ages) at  
Aragon.

#### On sale 10 a.m. Saturday

**Cute is What We**  
**Aim For, Meg**  
**and Dia, Breathe**  
**Carolina, Every**  
**Avenue, Anarbor,**  
Monday, March 30  
(\$15-\$17, all ages) at  
House of Blues.

#### On sale 11 a.m. Saturday



Sara Bareilles

**Willy Porter,** Friday,  
May 15 (\$22-\$27, all  
ages) at SPACE.

**This Must Be the**  
**Band (Talking**  
**Heads Tribute),**  
Friday, Feb. 13 (\$10-\$15,  
all ages) at SPACE.  
**Tyrone Wells,**  
**Trevor Hall,**  
Friday, Feb. 20

(\$12-\$15, all ages) at  
SPACE.

#### On sale noon Saturday

**Molotov,** Friday, Jan.  
16 (\$29, 18+) at Metro.

**Moxxy, Makeshift**  
**Prodigy, Simplistic**  
**Urge, A Birdsong**

**Valentine, Minus**  
**the Girl,** Saturday,  
Jan. 10 (\$10, all ages)  
at Metro.  
**The Presets,**  
Wednesday, April 8  
(\$16, 18+) at Metro.

#### On sale now

**Hollywood**

**Undead, Senses**  
**Fail, Haste the**  
**Day, Brokencyde,**  
Tuesday, March  
17 (\$17-\$18, all  
ages) at House of  
Blues.

**Il Divo,** Wednesday,  
May 20 (\$55-\$150, all  
ages) at Rosemont  
Theatre.





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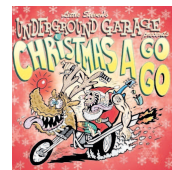


# Jolly jingles

From timeless crooners to hard rockers, Christmas discs for everyone

## Fort Worth Star-Telegram

From Goths to geriatric superstars, seemingly every singer, at some point in a career, releases a Christmas album. Some musicians boldly create their own yuletide tunes, in hopes they catch on, while others simply provide their own take on timeless, traditional fare. Whatever your musical tastes might be, we offer 10 new Christmas albums worth a spin and perhaps a place under a tree or in a stocking.



### Various artists

*"Christmas a Go-Go"*

Little Steven Van Zandt prides himself on unearthing the hippest rock tracks that time forgot. For this holiday compilation, he pulled out all the stops: Keith Richards snarling his way through "Run Rudolph Run," Darlene Love and the E Street Band tackling "All Alone on Christmas" and the rare, raucous Bob Seger tune "Suck It to Me Santa."



### Various artists

*"All Wrapped Up!"*

This seven-track collection showcases just about every star in the Disney constellation—from the Jonas Brothers' Trans-Siberian Orchestra-worthy ditty "Joyful Kings" to the Plain White T's with the mawkish "Christmas Won't Be the Same Without You." If you're in need of child-appropriate distractions, look no further.



### Faith Hill

*"Joy to the World"*

The country star tackles her first Christmas album, with mixed results. Too reliant on big, swooping vocals (c'mon, Faith—dial it down for the holidays, will ya?) and an odd blend of stateliness and polish, "Joy to the World" feels chilly rather than cozy.



### Various artists

*"We Wish You a Metal Xmas and a Headbanging New Year"*

Dude! Who needs namby-pamby Christmas carols when you could decorate the tree to the sounds of Lemmy Kilmister, Billy Gibbons and Dave Grohl shredding their way through "Run Rudolph Run"? Lotsa guitar firepower on this 12-track collection, including the most brutal version of "Silver Bells" you'll ever hear.



### Sheryl Crow

*"Home for Christmas"*

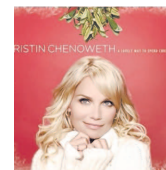
Available only at Hallmark (unless you'd like to shell out big bucks for the import version online), this 10-song collection is a pleasing, if slight, showcase for Crow's unassuming voice. Highlights include "O Holy Night" and "White Christmas."



### Melissa Etheridge

*"A New Thought for Christmas"*

The raw-voiced rocker balances traditional tunes like "O Night Divine" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" with a few freshly penned songs that find Etheridge still mining the lyrical vein that produced "The Awakening" (hint: lots of socio-political awareness).



### Kristin Chenoweth

*"A Lovely Way To Spend Christmas"*

A fresh face with a bold voice, Chenoweth delivers a pleasing collection of holiday tunes that move easily from folksy country ("Silver Bells") to something approaching opera ("What Child Is This?"); her expressive pipes make some musty standards spring to life.



### Elvis Presley

*"Christmas Duets"*

Chalk this up to an icky marketing idea: dusting off old Elvis Presley vocal tracks ("Blue Christmas," "O Little Town of Bethlehem") and inviting a who's who of modern country music—Carrie Underwood, Martina McBride, Gretchen Wilson—to croon alongside the King is meant to elicit wows, but instead, is strangely disconcerting.



### Various artists

*"The Hotel Cafe Presents... Winter Songs"*

There's a fella in sight throughout this all-female assemblage of talented singer/songwriters, ranging from Brandi Carlile to Fiona Apple to 2008 "It Girl" Katy Perry, whose raw take on "White Christmas" is far afield from the perky pop of "I Kissed a Girl."



### Brian McKnight

*"I'll Be Home For Christmas"*

R&B crooner McKnight trots out high-profile guest stars—Josh Groban, Vince Gill—to complement his trio of original compositions that fit snugly alongside warhorses like "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" and "Let It Snow."

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Tickets also available at the box office and [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

**February 7**

**February 11-15**

**March 26-29**

**April 30-May 3**  
Use Code: CTW025





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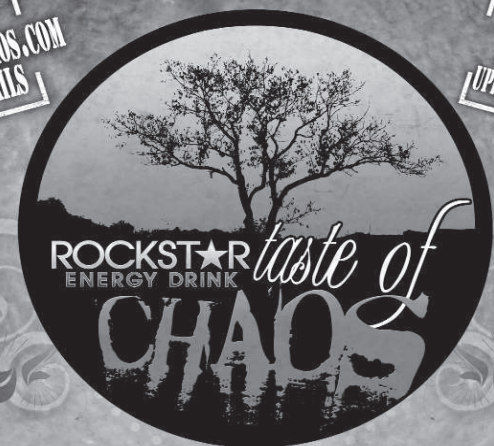


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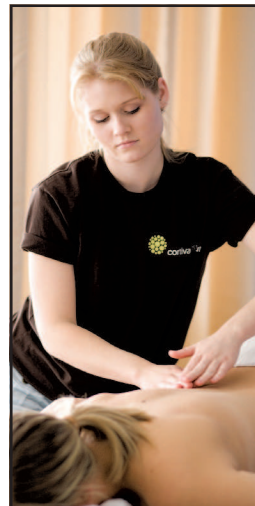
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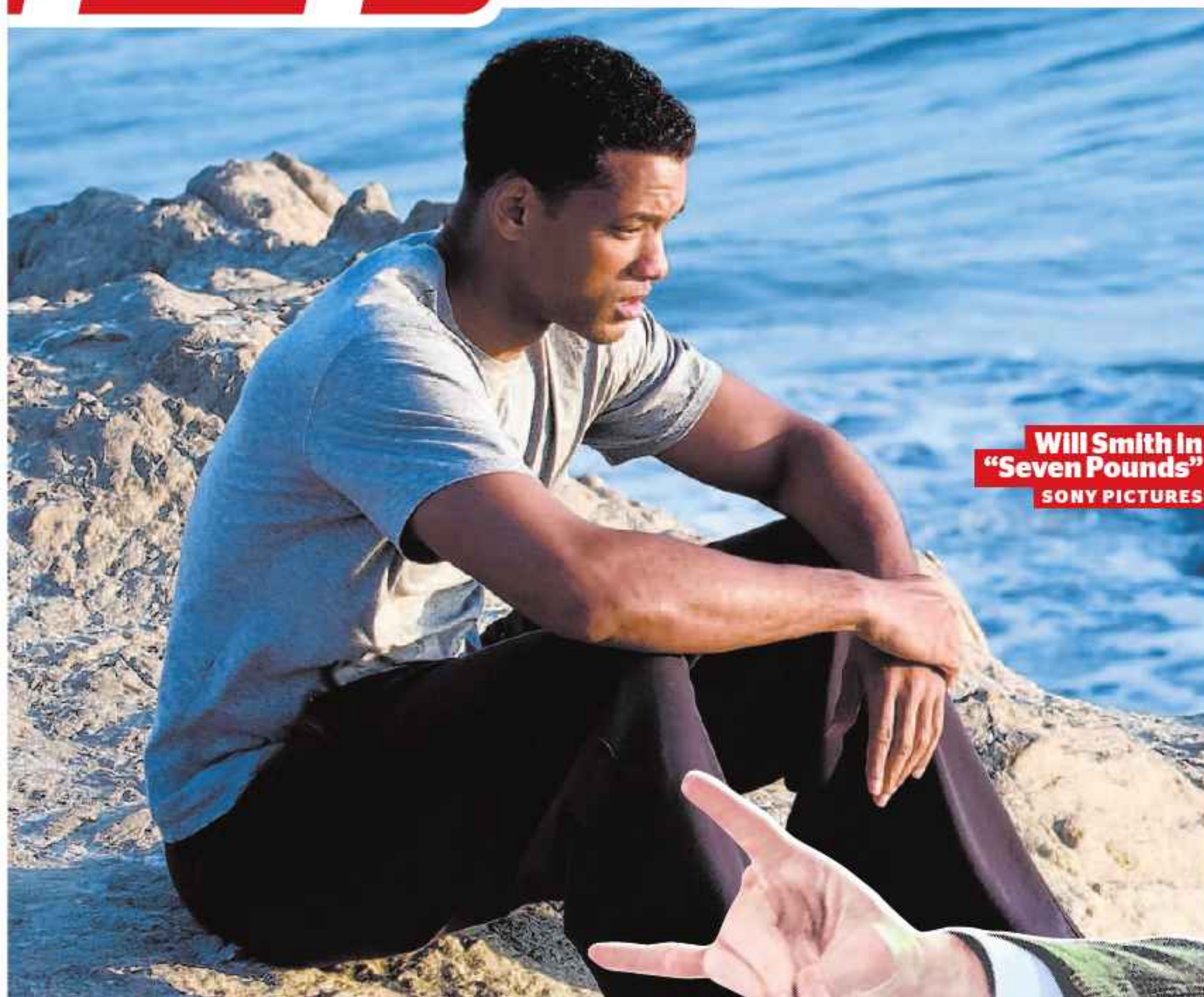
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**Battle is brewing  
between Hollywood's  
box-office kings**

# Ticket masters

## Los Angeles Times

The holiday movie season is filled with high-stakes showdowns—will Adam Sandler's "Bedtime Stories" topple Brad Pitt's "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" on Christmas Day?—but few December match-ups can compare with Friday's faceoff: Will Smith versus Jim Carrey.

The actors' movies couldn't be more different.

Smith's "Seven Pounds" is a challenging adult drama about an emotionally scarred man on the verge of making a personal sacrifice as a profound act of atonement. Carrey's "Yes Man" is an undemanding comedy following a middle-aged washout who suddenly can't say no to any opportunity, including mail-order brides, Korean language lessons and bungee jumping.

Box-office prognosticators say it could be a particularly close battle for the top spot over the weekend, with both movies poised to gross more than \$20 million from Friday

to Sunday.

Yet each film will test the true star power of its leading man, particularly as Carrey and Smith take on the kind of roles they haven't recently embraced.

For all the laughs Smith has generated over the years, "Seven Pounds" doesn't showcase a lot of mirth or merriment.

Smith plays Ben Thomas, an engineer haunted by an accident. In an instant, the tragedy changed his life, and Thomas feels compelled to make amends for what he has done.

"This is the first movie I've ever done that was a totally personal exploration," Smith says. "The idea of traumatic loss and how do people manage life after loss, and what is the difference between someone who falls into depression and someone who finds joy and an optimistic space. The answer I discovered is purpose."

Warner Bros. didn't have to look nearly as hard to find lighter moments to highlight in its commercials for "Yes Man." The movie is

filled with any number of over-the-top Carrey set pieces, including his drinking too much Red Bull, wrapping his face in cellophane tape and snorting hot sauce.

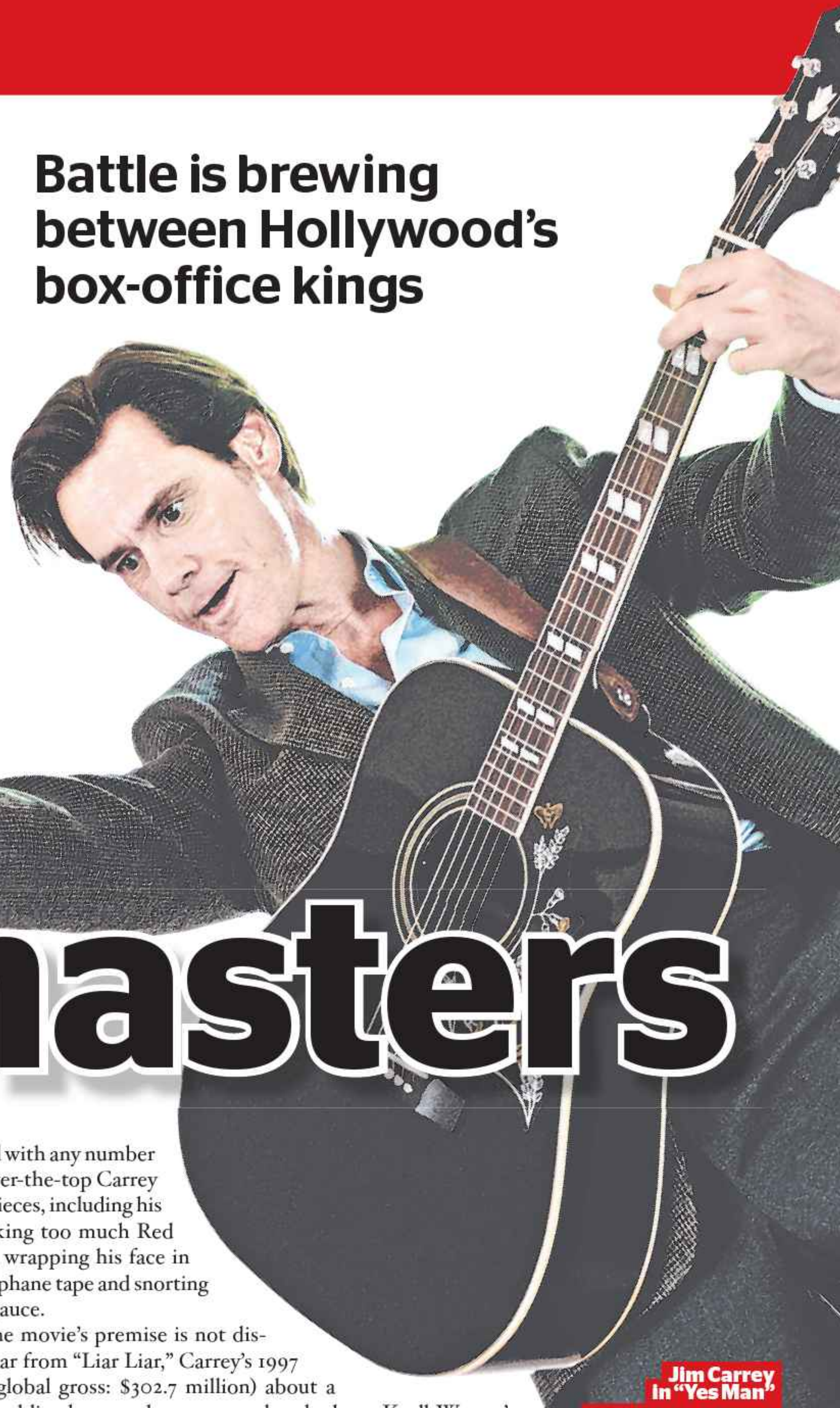
The movie's premise is not dissimilar from "Liar Liar," Carrey's 1997 hit (global gross: \$302.7 million) about a dissembling lawyer who must speak only the truth for 24 hours. In "Yes Man," the 46-year-old Carrey stars as Carl Allen, a lonely loan officer who is challenged by a friend and a self-help guru to stop saying no to life and instead say yes.

The newly positive attitude not only brings Carl into contact with a potential new girlfriend (Zooey Deschanel) but also transforms his job. It also affords Carrey multiple opportunities to engage in the broad physical comedy that defined his early career.

"This is quintessential Jim Carrey," Sue

Kroll, Warner's worldwide marketing chief, says of "Yes Man." "It's the Jim Carrey that audiences love."

Audience tracking surveys indicate "Yes Man" may open to more than \$27 million, with "Seven Pounds" around \$22 million. But the true measure of each film's performance will not be told for weeks, as moviegoers decide if they prefer the funny Carrey or the serious Smith.





# The Fab Five faceoff

Carrey, Cruise, Pitt, Smith, DiCaprio. In the coming days, these A-listers all will be in movie theaters with new projects—and, in some cases, much different roles than what we're used to seeing. Some will surprise us. Some will delight. Some, undoubtedly, will bomb. Here's a quick preview of what's to come from Hollywood's leading men between now and the end of the year. **NEWSDAY**



## Brad Pitt

### WHAT HE'S DONE

"Thelma & Louise," "Se7en," "Twelve Monkeys," "Fight Club," "Ocean's Eleven, Twelve and Thirteen," "Babel." Need we go on?

### WHAT HE'S DONE WRONG

Potboilers like "The Mexican," "Troy" and "Spy Game" made what they did because of him; "Babel" and "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford" were art films; and the Coen brothers' "Burn After Reading" might have shown a nervy willingness for Pitt to play against his image, but it did jack for his marketability. And while Angelina Jolie may have taken the tabloid brunt of the whole Bradgelina issue, it's his albatross too.

### WHAT'S NEW

David Fincher's "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" (Dec. 25), after a story by F. Scott Fitzgerald, about a man who was born old and gets younger as everyone around him ages.

### WHAT'S AT STAKE

"Button" is elegant and bittersweet, but it isn't a blockbuster. And the fewer blockbuster movies you make, the less you are perceived as a blockbuster actor. Pitt may not care—he has his philanthropic causes and his children; his collaborations with Steven Soderbergh, George Clooney and his own Plan B production company have been about making quality movies. But if his clout is going to mean anything to lesser-known filmmakers, or worthy films, he has to remain a movie star.

**Carrey**

## Jim Carrey

### WHAT HE'S DONE

"Ace Ventura," "The Mask" and "Dumb and Dumber," which made Jim Carrey the first \$20 million-per-picture comedian. While his first pic at that price—"The Cable Guy"—got bad reception, he followed up with "Liar Liar," "Man on the Moon," "Me, Myself & Irene," a change of pace with "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," then back to form with "Bruce Almighty."

### WHAT HE'S DONE WRONG

"The Majestic" (what?), "Fun With Dick and Jane" (huh?), "The Number 23" (eh?) and "Lemony Snicket" (isn't that on the Food Network?). He also has assumed that his brand of desperation comedy would have an unlimited shelf life.

### WHAT'S NEW

"Yes Man" (opening Friday), based on the book by Danny Wallace, in which Carrey's character challenges himself to say "yes" to everything for a year.

### WHAT'S AT STAKE

Carrey reportedly is doing "Yes Man" with no money upfront—it's all back-end, with a payoff dependent on the movie making at least \$70 million. If audiences say no to "Yes Man," well ...



## Will Smith

### WHAT HE'S DONE

Become the biggest actor in the world, thanks to "Bad Boys," "Men in Black" (and their respective sequels), "Independence Day" and "Shark Tale."

### WHAT HE'S DONE WRONG

Gotten serious. Smith's box-office potency remains unquestioned—the disastrous "Hancock" still made more than half a billion dollars worldwide. But did anyone really want to see "The Pursuit of Happyness"? And with the weighty "Seven Pounds," he's reunited with "Happyness" director Gabriele Muccino. But no one's been talking about Smith the way they did after "Independence Day"—how brash and fresh and funny he was, and how his movies were a good time and how he straddled all those nettlesome demographic boundaries. What he's got is the money; what he wants is the Oscar. And he's going to make leaden movies until he gets one.

### WHAT'S NEW

"Seven Pounds" (opens Friday), "an extraordinary journey of redemption," which is the kind of description applied to movies that make you wanna go "zzzzzzzzzz."

### WHAT'S AT STAKE

Smith is huge, and when you're huge, you're a target. If "Seven Pounds" is a dog—and we have no reason to think it is, except the oh-so-ponderous advertising campaign—then he'll start to become an object of amusement, which isn't glamorous.

**Cruise**

## Tom Cruise

### WHAT HE'S DONE

"Risky Business," "Top Gun," "The Firm," "A Few Good Men," "Jerry Maguire," "Mission: Impossible I, II and III," "Magnolia," Nicole, Katie, while maintaining a place setting at the high end of the Hollywood food chain for 20 years.

### WHAT HE'S DONE WRONG

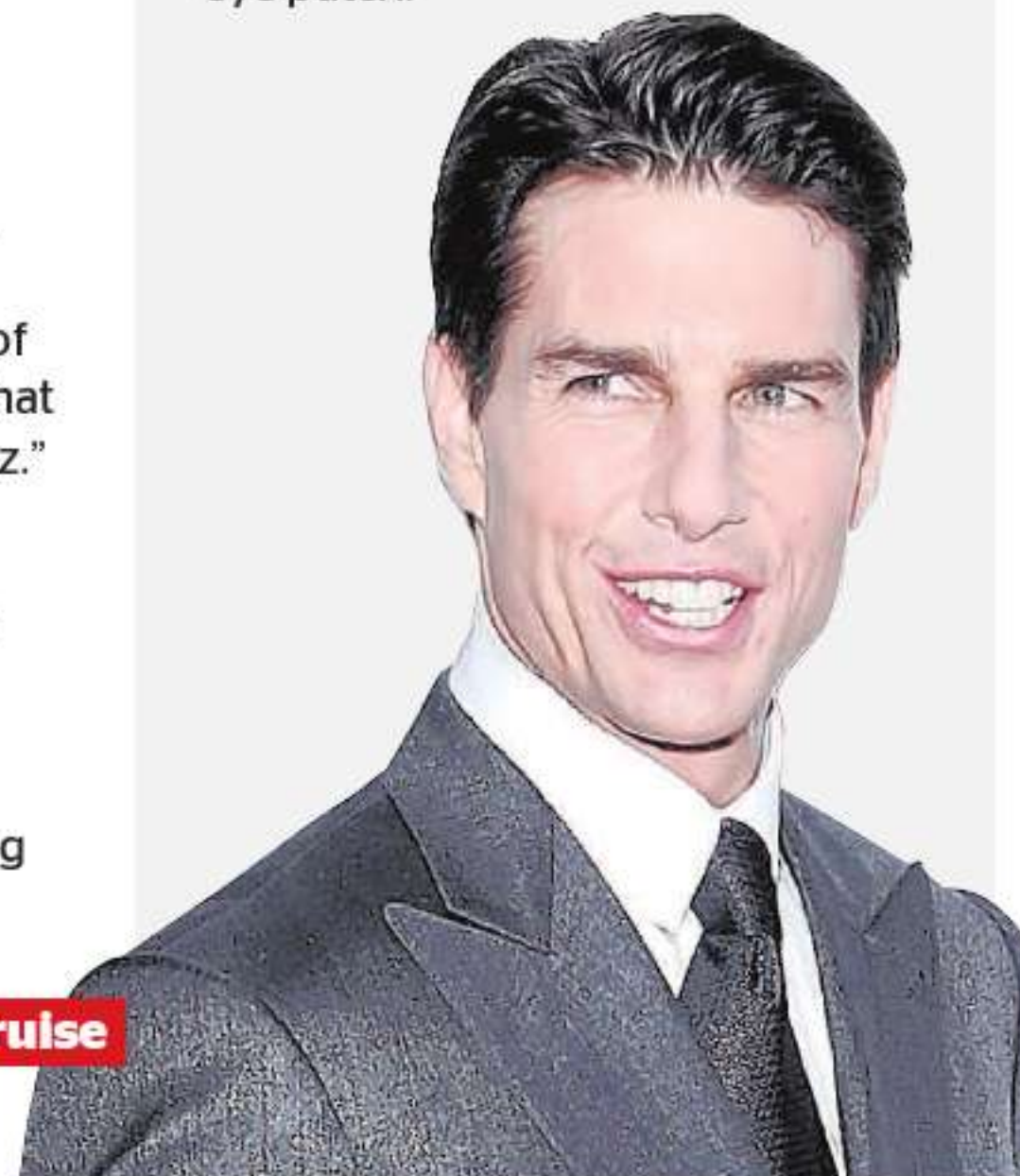
Bounced on Oprah's couch, made himself the middle-age poster child for Scientological weirdness and underdelivered at the box office with "M:I 3" to the extent it allowed petulant Viacom chief Sumner Redstone to cut him loose. He also danced, in "Tropic Thunder."

### WHAT'S NEW

"Valkyrie" (opening Dec. 25), the story of Claus von Stauffenberg, a much-honored, much-wounded Nazi officer who was at the center of a German plot to kill Adolf Hitler in 1944.

### WHAT'S AT STAKE

Cruise's place at the box office, which teeters on the risky premise of making a Nazi—even a well-intentioned Nazi—sympathetic. "Hitler's Germany," Cruise says in the trailer, "has seen its last sunrise." Yeah, well, the same might be said for Cruise. Love the eye patch.



## Leonardo DiCaprio

### WHAT HE'S DONE

"What's Eating Gilbert Grape" indicated that DiCaprio was among the greatest actors alive, and he hasn't done much to convince anyone otherwise. But few of his films have captured the mainstream imagination in a major way. "Gangs of New York," "Catch Me If You Can," "The Aviator" and "The Departed" were all serious—in some cases brilliant—movies, but they weren't "Titanic."

### WHAT HE'S DONE WRONG

"Blood Diamond" and, certainly, the documentary "The 11th Hour" were movies DiCaprio was motivated to do for their sociopolitical content. While he does consistently good, important work—his last, "Body of Lies," was an overlooked gem, probably because of its Middle East content—he hasn't become the exhibitor's best friend.

### WHAT'S NEW

"Revolutionary Road" (Dec. 26), directed by Sam Mendes, about a '50s couple seeking fulfillment in France. In it, he's reunited with his "Titanic" co-star, Kate Winslet.

### WHAT'S AT STAKE

Like George Clooney with an age advantage, DiCaprio probably is the male star best able to survive box-office dips and acting misfires, because he has a surfeit of talent, natural magnetism and a contagious sense of conviction about whatever he's doing.





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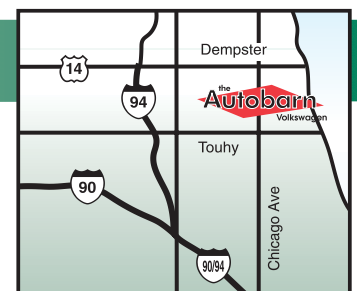
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Jim Carrey  
in "Yes Man"  
WARNER BROS. PICTURES

## Say 'Yes' to spontaneity

Loan officer and grade-A party pooper Carl (Jim Carrey) attends a self-empowerment seminar that commands him to say "Yes" to every opportunity, causing him to start giving rides to homeless people, taking flying lessons and snorting hot sauce. It also makes him a lot happier and scores him perky girlfriend Allison (Zooey Deschanel), who's equally impulsive and fun-loving. With Bradley Cooper ("Wedding Crashers") as Carl's best friend and Rhys Darby ("Flight of the Conchords") as Carl's goofball boss Norman.

**The verdict:** "Yes Man" lunges awfully hard

to hit the funny bone—Norman hosts a "Harry Potter" costume party; Carl agrees to be sexually serviced by an old woman, sans dentures, and likes it! Yet the movie's a more direct hit to the heart, proving to be a much better romance than comedy as the chemistry between Carrey and Deschanel makes Carl and Allison look like they're really cut out for each other. When it loosens up and just glides on the right sort of positivity, "Yes Man"—forced quirkiness aside—turns radical open-mindedness into a sweet reminder about the inspiring power of spontaneity.



**fast  
paused**

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YES MAN  
(PG-13)



### Gran Torino (R)

After the death of his wife, Korean War vet Walt (Clint Eastwood, who also directed) has little to do but grumble about kids these days and the various minorities who have taken over his Detroit neighborhood. After his teenage Hmong neighbor (Bee Vang) flubs a gang initiation by failing to steal Walt's prized '72 Ford Gran Torino, Walt gradually warms to the boy and teaches him how to be a man.

**The verdict:** Nobody growls like Clint growls, yet "Gran Torino" becomes a remarkably sweet movie considering half of it is the big man barking bigoted comments. There's not much bite to the racial conflicts or depth to the supporting characters. But Eastwood's presence is a force to be reckoned with. It's an Oscar-worthy turn as a man who learns he doesn't have to totally knock down the fences he's built around himself, but it's OK to lower them a bit.

### The Tale of Despereaux (G)

After Roscuro (voiced by Dustin Hoffman) the rat falls into a vat of soup on the kingdom of Dor's beloved Soup Day, rats are banished to Ratworld and soup is banned. Then there's the arrival of Despereaux (Matthew Broderick), a mouse who would rather be brave than timid, who falls for Princess Pea (Emma Watson) and gets booted from Mouseworld into Ratworld. Meanwhile, an unattractive servant girl (Tracey Ullman), of course, longs to be a princess.

**The verdict:** Rata-terrible. "Despereaux" has visuals that aren't even as engaging as "South Park" and a story less involving than what your average 1st grader composes.

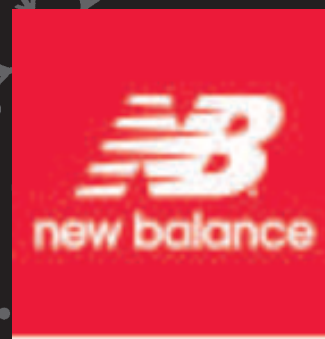
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## Doubt

**@EricEatherly:** Brilliant performance from expert cast, a fine example of the true art of acting. Unaffected, subtle & sublime.

## Nothing Like the Holidays

**@kappgar:** Nothing Like the Holidays, filmed in Humboldt Park, is a look at a genuinely portrayed family coping with the holidays.

## Nixon/Frost

**@nocturneprime:** Nixon/Frost is excellent. [Frank] Langella deserves the Oscar nod for his performance.



Keanu Reeves in "Earth"  
20TH CENTURY FOX

## The Day the Earth Stood Still

**@EricEatherly:** Reeves is cold, detached & monotone, but that's the point. Simple premise, tho entertaining. Great FX!  
**@keithrconrad:** It Klaatu Barada Sucked.

## Rachel Getting Married

**@natebeal:** Why is there a fiddle player in every scene?

## Madagascar 2

**@KMiley:** Madagascar II is a treat for adults and kids. Never saw my 9 yo laugh as hard in a movie. Slapstick humor a hit with him.

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**@WendyPackard:** Funny rom-com, though most jokes were in the trailer. Became pretty predictable at the end, but good Xmas fun.

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- **Yes Man** (PG-13) 1:45,4:30,7:30,10:20
- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) 2:40,5:30,8:15,10:50
- AMC Select **Cadillac Rec** (R) 1:30,4:10,6:45,9:30
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 3:00,5:20,7:50,10:10
- **Bolt** (PG) 2:10,4:40
- **Twilight** (PG-13) 1:20,4:20,7:40,10:40
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG-13) 2:20,4:50,7:20,10:30

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- **Let the Right** (R) 1:50,4:50,7:40,10:25

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- **Yes Man** (PG-13) ★ 10:50,11:30,1:40,2:20,4:20,5:00,7:00,7:40,9:45,10:30
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) ★ 10:20,12:40,1:20,3:40,4:30,6:50,7:30,10:00,10:40
- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) ★ 11:20,1:02,2:00,4:10,4:50,6:45,7:20,9:20,10:10
- **Nothing Like** (PG-13) ★ 11:40,2:10,4:40,7:10,9:40
- **Cadillac Rec** (R) 7:15,9:50
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 10:40,1:00,3:30,6:10,8:30,10:50
- **Twilight** (PG-13) 9:45,12:45,3:50,6:40,9:30
- **Bolt in 3D** (PG) 10:30,12:50,3:20,6:20,9:10
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG-13) 9:50,12:20,2:50,5:20,8:00,10:45
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- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 6:15,8:15,10:15
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG-13) 5:30,7:45,10:00

### FORD CITY 14 (AMC)

S. Cicero at 76th, Chicago  
(773) 582-1839  
Show times change daily

#### AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **Tale of Desp** (G) 11:30,2:00,4:40,7:00,9:20
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) 10:45,12:10,1:30,3:10,4:20,6:10,7:20,9:10,10:05
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) 10:50,11:45,1:20,2:20,4:00,5:00,6:40,7:40,9:30,10:15
- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) 11:00,12:00,1:40,2:40,3:30,4:10,5:15,6:45,7:45,8:30,9:15,10:10
- AMC Select **Nothing Like** (PG-13) 11:20,1:00,1:50,4:30,6:05,7:10,9:40
- AMC Select **Cadillac Rec** (R) 11:50,2:15,4:50,7:30,10:00
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 11:15,1:25,3:45,6:20,9:00
- **Transporter 3** (PG-13) 1:45,7:15
- **Bolt** (PG) 10:45,12:55,3:05,5:30,7:50,10:15
- **Twilight** (PG-13) 10:55,1:35,4:15,7:05,9:45
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG-13) 11:10,4:25,9:35

### GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER

164 State Street  
312-846-2800

- **Antonio Gaudi** (NR) 6:00
- **The Wild Child** (G) 6:00,7:45
- **Solitary** (NR) 7:30

### LINCOLN VILLAGE THEATRE

6341 N. McCormick at Devon Chicago  
312-642-2403

Call theatre for show information

### LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago  
(773) 252-0628

- **Twilight** (PG-13) 2:15,4:20,6:30,8:40
- **Bolt** (PG) 2:10,4:15,6:15,8:20
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 2:05,4:05,6:05,8:10
- **Transporter 3** (PG-13) 2:15,4:20,6:25,8:30

### MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago  
(773) 871-6604

- **White Christmas** (NR) 7:00 P.M.
- **It's Wonderful** (NR) 8:50 P.M.
- **Were-World** (NR) 9:30 P.M.
- **Christmas Tale** (NR) 6:30 P.M.

### PIPERS ALLEY (AMC)

1608 N. Wells, Chicago  
(312) 642-7500  
Show times change daily

#### AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **Let Them Chirp** (NR) 1:25,5:40,10:10
- **Rab Ne Bana** (NR) 2:30,5:50,9:15
- **Striped Pajamas** (PG-13) 3:30,8:00
- AMC Select **Happy-Go-Lucky** (R) 1:40,4:20,7:00,9:40
- AMC Select **Rachel Getting** (R) 2:05,4:45,7:25,10:05

### RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

322 E. Illinois Street  
847-765-7262  
Show times change daily

- AMC Select **Frost/Nixon** (R) 10:35,11:35,1:35,2:35,4:35,5:35,7:35,8:35,10:50
- AMC Select **Gran Torino** (R) 10:20,11:20,1:15,2:15,4:15,5:15,7:20,8:20,10:30,11:30
- AMC Select **Doubt** (PG-13) 11:05,1:50,2:50,4:40,5:40,7:30,8:30,10:20,11:20
- **Tale of Desp** (G) 10:00,12:30,3:05,5:40,8:15,10:45
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) 10:00,11:00,1:15,2:15,4:30,5:30,7:45,8:45,10:50,12:00
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) 10:00,11:10,1:00,2:00,4:00,5:00,7:00,8:00,9:50,11:00,12:00
- AMC Select **Slumdog Mill** (R) 10:10,11:10,12:10,4:10,5:10,7:10,8:10,11:10
- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) 10:05,12:35,1:30,2:15,3:15,5:00,6:00,7:40,8:40,10:00,10:40,11:40
- AMC Select **Milk** (R) 1:05,4:05,7:05,10:05
- AMC Select **Nothing Like** (PG-13) 10:40,1:20,3:50,6:20,8:50,11:25
- AMC Select **Cadillac Rec** (R) 11:15,2:05,4:50,7:50,10:35
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 11:25,1:50,4:20,6:50,9:20,11:45
- **Australia** (PG-13) 10:35 A.M.
- **Bolt** (PG) 10:15 A.M.
- **Bolt in 3D** (PG) ★ 11:15,1:40,4:25,7:00,9:30,12:00
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG-13) 12:50,3:30,6:05,8:40,11:35

### CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Skokie  
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- **Tale of Desp** (G) ★ 11:30,1:20,2:00,3:50,4:30,6:20,7:00,8:50,9:50,11:30
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) ★ 11:50,12:40,1:10,1:50,2:30,3:40,4:10,4:40,5:10,6:40,7:10,7:40,8:10,9:10,9:40,10:10,10:40,11:40,12:10,12:40
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) ★ 12:20,1:00,3:30,4:20,6:30,7:30,9:30,10:20,12:15

(continued)

### CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES) (continued)

- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) ★ 11:40,1:30,2:10,4:00,4:50,6:50,7:50,10:00,10:30,12:30
- **Nothing Like** (PG-13) ★ 1:40,4:15,7:20,9:45,12:25
- **Cadillac Rec** (R) 12:45,3:45,6:45,9:20,11:55
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 12:50,3:10,5:30,8:20,10:35,12:50
- **Twilight** (PG-13) 12:30,3:20,6:10,9:00,11:50
- **Bolt in 3D** (PG) 11:45,2:20,4:45,7:15,9:55,12:20
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG-13) 7:45,10:15,12:45
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 12:10,3:00,6:15,9:15,12:01
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 12:00,2:15,5:00
- **Role Models** (R) 2:40,5:20,8:00,10:25,12:55

### WEBSTER PLACE (KERASOTES)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago  
(800) 326-3264 #1641

- **Yes Man** (PG-13) ★ 11:00,12:10,1:30,2:40,4:15,5:10,6:50,7:40,9:30,10:20,7:00,9:15,10:00
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) ★ 10:10,12:30,1:00,3:30,4:00,6:20,7:00,9:15,10:00
- **Australia** (PG-13) 10:30,2:15,6:10,9:40
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 11:30,2:00,5:00,7:10,9:50
- **Twilight** (PG-13) 10:00,12:50,3:40,6:40,9:45
- **Bolt** (PG) 10:45,1:15,3:50,6:30,9:00
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG-13) 11:20,2:30,5:15,7:50,10:30
- **Role Models** (R) 11:10,1:50,4:45,7:30,10:10
- **Vicky Cristina** (PG-13) 10:50,1:40,4:30,7:20,10:15

### SHOWPLACE 14 - GALEWOOD CROSSINGS (KERASOTES)

E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave.  
(800) 326-3264 #1646

- **Tale of Desp** (G) 2:10,4:40,7:00,9:30
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) 1:00,1:30,2:00,3:40,4:15,4:50,6:40,7:10,7:40,9:15,9:50,10:40
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) 12:50,1:40,4:00,4:30,6:50,7:30,9:40,10:30
- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) 12:45,2:30,3:30,5:15,6:10,7:50,8:40,10:20
- **Nothing Like** (PG-13) 1:45,4:20,6:45,9:20
- **Cadillac Rec** (R) 1:50,4:45,7:20,10:10
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 2:40,5:00,7:45,10:15
- **Twilight** (PG-13) 1:20,4:10,7:15,10:00
- **Bolt** (PG) 1:10,3:50,6:30,8:50
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 12:40,3:20,6:20,9:00

### CICERO SHOWPLACE 14 (KERASOTES)

4779 W. Cermak  
(800) 326-3264 #1644

- **Tale of Desp** (G) ★ 12:40,2:10,3:20,4:40,6:20,7:00,9:00,9:30
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) ★ 1:00,1:30,2:00,3:40,4:15,4:45,6:40,7:10,7:40,9:15,9:50,10:40
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) ★ 12:50,1:40,4:00,4:30,6:50,7:30,9:40,10:30
- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) ★ 12:45,2:30,3:30,5:15,6:10,7:50,8:40,10:20
- **Nothing Like** (PG-13) ★ 1:50,4:20,6:45,9:20
- **Cadillac Rec** (R) 7:20,10:10
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 2:40,5:00,7:45,10:15
- **Twilight** (PG-13) 1:20,4:10,7:15,10:00
- **Bolt** (PG) 1:10,3:50,6:30,8:50
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 2:20,4:50

### OAK PARK

#### LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)

1022 Lake Street  
630-444-FILM #560

- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) 11:30,2:10,4:50,7:30,10:10
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) 12:05,2:25,4:45,7:05,9:25
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 11:15,1:50,4:25,7:00,9:40
- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) 12:25,2:45,5:05,7:25,9:45
- **Milk** (R) 1:25,4:10,7:15,10:00
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 1:00,3:05,5:10,7:15,9:20
- **Bolt in 3D** (PG) 12:00,2:15,4:30,6:45,9:00

### EVANSTON

#### CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)

1715 MAPLE AVE.  
(847)492-0123 ♯

- **Doubt** (PG-13) ★ 12:00,1:20,2:35,3:55,5:10,6:30,7:45,9:05,10:20
- **Seven Pounds** (PG-13) ★ 12:15,1:40,3:10,4:30,6:05,7:30,9:00,10:25
- **Tale of Desp** (G) ★ 11:45,2:15,4:35,7:00,9:25
- **Yes Man** (PG-13) ★ 11:40,1:10,2:15,4:45,5:55,6:20,7:25,8:55,10:00
- **Australia** (PG-13) 11:50,3:25,7:00
- **Bolt** (PG) 11:35,2:05,4:40
- **Cadillac Rec** (R) 11:30,2:10,4:45,7:35,10:10
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 11:55,2:10,4:40,7:10,9:40
- **Milk** (R) 1:15,4:15,7:10,7:15,10:05,10:15
- **Nothing Like** (PG-13) ★ 11:30,1:55,4:25,6:55,9:30
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG-13) 1:20,4:00,6:40,9:20
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 11:35,1:05,2:25,4:05,5:30,7:05,8:30,10:05
- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) ★ 11:40,12:25,2:20,3:00,4:45,5:35,7:20,8:10,9:55

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# Coming up Rosario

Dawson shows softer side in 'Seven Pounds'

## From news services

Rosario Dawson is better known for her prominent roles in indie films than her smaller ones in studio pictures.

In "Seven Pounds," the new Will Smith drama that opens Friday, Dawson takes on leading lady status.

But the romance at the heart of "Seven Pounds" isn't exactly familiar film territory for Dawson. The 29-year-old actress has appeared in 40 features over the last decade without ever being a romantic lead before now. Well, with one possible exception.

"I look at [2000s] 'Clerks II' as a romantic comedy—my kind of romantic comedy," she said.

Dawson was 15 when Larry Clark literally picked her out of the crowd for his controversial indie breakout, 1995's "Kids." She got on a serious acting path when Spike Lee signed her up for 1998's "He Got Game."

There was a bit of initial stereotyping: "Everybody assumed I was like that character in 'He Got Game' and 'Kids.' I got a lot of scripts after 'He Got Game' that were that same kind of hoochie-mama girl, and I was like, I already played a chickenhead, and she was awesome ... why would I want to do that again with you?"

Then came the years where she was "kind of all over the place, not knowing what I was doing," supporting actors such as Eddie Murphy in "The Adventures of Pluto Nash" and, yes, Smith—to a more limited degree—in "Men in Black II." She did a period role in Oliver Stone's "Alexander." She did the noir sex-bomb in "Sin City." She sang in "Rent."

In "Seven Pounds," Dawson plays Emily Posa, a woman who needs a new heart. When she and

Smith's character fall in love, Emily suddenly gets what she needs to stay alive.

Dawson was on a plane with her mother and grandmother when she first read the script for "Seven Pounds."

"I just started crying, and they said, 'You have to do this,'" Dawson said. She also was moved by some of the stories she heard from real-life transplant patients and by her character's unique arc.

"That's one of the main reasons why I wanted to play Emily—to bring her to life," she said.

If "Seven Pounds" does soften up Dawson's image and earn her more conventional roles, director Gabriele Muccino will no doubt be owed some of the credit.

Still, perfecting the romantic chemistry between Dawson and Smith took time—or, actually, procrastination.

"Will wouldn't start kissing for weeks," she said, laughing. "It would be on the schedule, we'd have lights and everything set up, and he would end up being like, 'I'm not feeling it tonight. I don't think it's going to happen. Let's wait another week.' I was checking my breath, smelling myself, trying to see: 'Am I offending the man in some way?'"

That emotional intensity in "Seven Pounds" could surprise fans of both actors.

So, is this the kind of movie her reps have begged her to make? "Absolutely. They've humored me through a lot of my choices. ... Sometimes it's been pretty arbitrary. But that's how I started, when [Clark] walked up on the street and said, 'Hi, I'm a photographer and I'm making a movie.' You never know where things are going to go."

L.A. TIMES, REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR MIKI TURNER  
CONTRIBUTED.

Rosario Dawson says she "just started crying" when she read the script for "Seven Pounds."  
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"Gran Torino"  
WARNER BROS. PICTURES

## Clint talks 'Torino'

### Associated Press

**NEW YORK** As one of Hollywood's most honored figures, Clint Eastwood can be selective about his on-screen company—and for "Gran Torino," he didn't choose a group of people making their film debut. He chose a group of people making their acting debut.

The Oscar winner also stars as Walt Kowalski, a retiree who has trouble accepting his changing neighborhood, but is forced to reassess his prejudices when he becomes a hero by defending the family next door from a Hmong gang. Like his character Walt, Eastwood says he, too, is ever-changing.

**The principal actors in "Gran Torino" were first-time actors. Did you feel you were taking a risk casting them?**

Yes, I was taking a chance. I felt that was the only way to do it. There certainly weren't many Hmong actors.

**Is "Gran Torino" your last acting film?**

I never think of retirement really.

**You've seen firsthand the paparazzi that surrounds Angelina Jolie. If you were coming up in this time, would you have gone into acting?**

I suppose. I like doing the process. Of course when you get to the franticness that she [Angelina] is at, at this present time, it is out there. It wasn't that way when I got in. ... It has always been a little different for guys than it is for girls. ... They get more attention.

**You supported John McCain. Were you disappointed when he lost?**

I met him years ago when he first came back from Vietnam. ... I thought he was a terrific guy. ... [Barack] Obama is my president now and I am going to be wishing him the very best because it is what is best for all of us.

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Metallica has turned the Web to its advantage since taking on Napster eight years ago. AP FILE

## Metallica embraces the Internet ... at last

### MCT

Who would have thought the band that famously fought Napster would be, eight years later, masters of the Internet?

Its guitarist, for one, didn't.

Back when Metallica was butting heads with Napster and becoming the face of the anti-online music-piracy movement, Kirk Hammett wasn't sure what the years ahead held for his band.

"Is this what the future is going to entail?" he recalls thinking. "Us battling all this different technology that's coming out of left field that doesn't have any boundaries?"

Metallica is battling no more. In fact, it's set its own boundaries, started its own Web sites to sell music, concert tickets and live recordings, and it has used the Internet to mold the business model for which the music industry has been searching.

The group launched [missionmetallica.com](http://missionmetallica.com) as an insider look at its recording process, its past and as a delivery service for "Death Magnetic," released in September.

### FUTURE GUITAR HEROES

It has been rumored for quite some time, but Metallica confirmed this week on its Web site that the band will be the subject of a Guitar Hero game. "Guitar Hero Metallica allows you to play as us in either single instrument or band career game modes in your choice of some famous settings (Tushino Airfield anyone?) or new venues with in-the-round staging," according to a statement on [metallica.com](http://metallica.com). The game is due in the first quarter of 2009, the site said.

Along the way, [metallica.com](http://metallica.com) was debuting songs and videos, keeping up with tour rumors and pointing all the eyes on Metallica back to its own site.

Metallica's Web arsenal also includes [metclub.com](http://metclub.com), a fan club, [metontour.com](http://metontour.com), the hub for tour news and concert tickets and a mobile site for ringtones and such.

Then there's [livemetallica.com](http://livemetallica.com), where fans can download audio from any of the band's concerts for \$9.95 to \$12.95.

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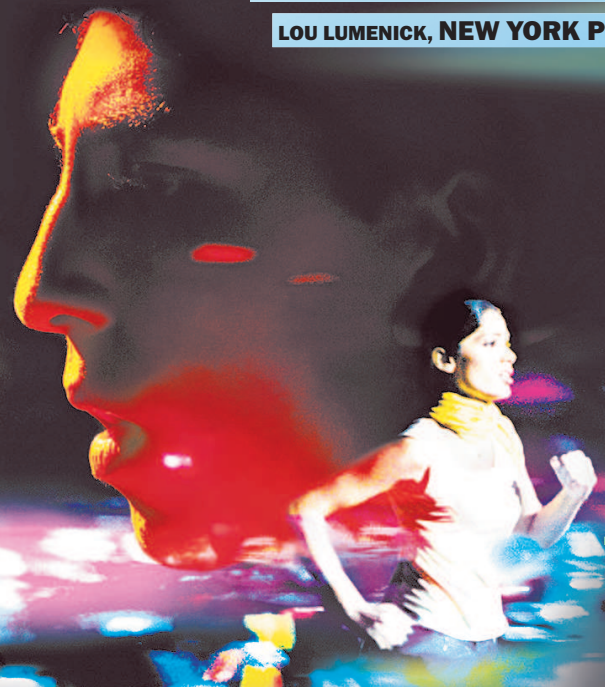


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# Holiday craftacular

This holiday season, many people are being crafty, making their gifts rather than buying them. Here are some ideas for gifts that can easily be made, even for those who might be less artistic. **AP**

## Plants in a jar

Stephanie Nelson, the Atlanta-area founder of "The Coupon Mom" Web site, also suggests filling two-thirds of a jar or mug with glass stones, placing a flower bulb on top and then decorating it with a bow and instructions to water it. It costs about \$2 to make, but in a store it can run up to \$20.

## Gift baskets

Ready-made gift baskets in a store can run from \$30 to more than \$100, even at places like Costco. But buying a \$5 basket and filling it with a variety of candles, on-sale chocolates, crafts made for charitable purposes and other goodies can be done for anywhere from \$15 to \$20.



**Baking**

Baking cakes, cookies or pies for co-workers and neighbors could be a cheap alternative to gift-buying and also is thoughtful. Cookies and muffins can be made in large batches, and artfully placed in \$5 baskets bought at craft stores, such as Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores or Michaels.

**MCT FILE**

## Jewelry

Shops like Jo-Ann Fabrics and Michaels sell simple jewelry-making kits and bags or strings of beads that are enough for several items. For between \$20 to \$150, depending on the type and style of beads, simple necklaces, bracelets and earrings can be made for less than half the price of what's available in stores.



**TRIBUNE FILE**

## Gifts in a jar

Nelson suggests buying a Mason jar and layering the ingredients for anything from a cake to bath salts in the glass jar. The layers will look pretty and products should cost no more than \$5, while a ready-made "gift in a jar" can cost \$30.

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**As a divorcee,  
your game  
will be the  
fact that  
you don't  
have game,  
which is very  
refreshing  
to those of  
us who have  
been single  
forever.**

# Divorcee dating refresher

Lately, I find myself giving dating advice to divorcees. They're out of practice and completely clueless about modern dating concepts. In light of that, I've compiled the basic rules of dating for divorcees.

By the way, if you're a divorcee who dated throughout your marriage, this article is not for you. You don't need tutelage; you need quiet time!

## Heal thyself

If you're still bitter about your divorce (that was finalized last week), rampant dating is tempting but probably not the answer. Enjoy being single for a while and give yourself the space to figure out who you are, and what you want in your next relationship, before jumping back into the dating pool.

Besides, the embittered make for terrible company.

I once went on a horrible date with a man who had been divorced for exactly 60 days. Over drinks, he waxed endlessly about his ex-wife.

## Realize that your pre-marital mack has expired

Whatever worked 10 years ago will not work today. Throw away those corny pickup lines and start anew. As a divorcee, your game will be the fact that

you don't have game, which is very refreshing to those of us who have been single forever.

I have a male friend who is recently divorced after 12 years of marriage. He's awkward and uncomfortable in his approach to women. But his introductions are endearing because he's not savvy enough to be a game-player. He's of the impression that women date him because they feel sorry for him. Not to say that he's not enjoying it.

## Online dating should be done with caution

Yes, online dating sites are fun, and reading profiles can be addictive. However, resist the urge to register for every matchmaking site. It's expensive, and you'll get more responses than you can manage. Start gradually, and protect yourself. As technology has progressed, daters have become more diabolical.

Ms. New Dater, a new divorcee, has been very good about safety. She created a separate e-mail address for online dating correspondence. Ms. ND believed she'd thought of everything, but after sending a few e-mails from her supposedly anonymous address, she realized that her full name appeared on the From line of her messages. She changed it, so that only her initials are revealed.

As an extra safety precaution, Ms. ND recommends disposable cell phones for voice-to-voice chats. She makes a good point, albeit slightly paranoid.

## Know the rules of a hookup

Everyone you meet will not be your next boy/girl-friend. Sometimes you'll find yourself having a casual fling. The key is to know a fling when you see one.

Ms. ND was set up with a potential hookup. She suggested they meet over brunch, and determined that they weren't compatible. Her lesson learned was that you don't have brunch with a hookup. In fact, no movies, dinners or lunches either. The only thing that you can have with a hookup (aside from the obvious) is a round of cocktails.

Ideally, a booty call should get on your last nerve—otherwise you might decide that you want a relationship, which will find you on a direct path to misery.

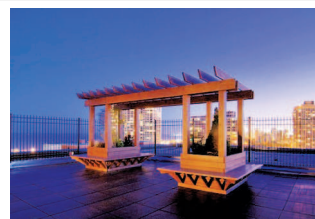
The final lesson is to enlist the help of a "professional." Your single friends have been at this for a while. We find your stories fascinating, and we're always happy to give advice.

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^0% APR financing for 72 mos. = \$13.87 per \$1,000 financed with approved credit on 2008 Armada.

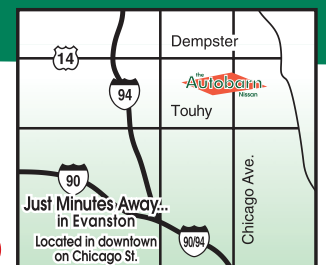
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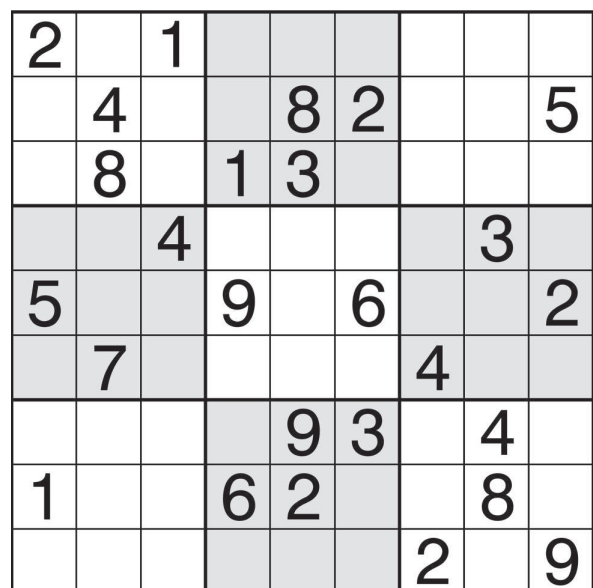


Think you can beat John?  
E-mail [redyeeditor@tribune.com](mailto:redyeeditor@tribune.com) or text "John" and your e-mail address to 32332.

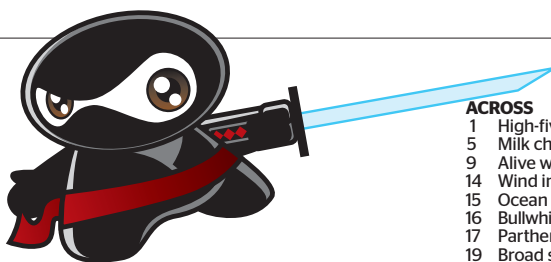
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9	5	6	8	2	4	1	3	7
7	4	1	9	5	3	6	8	2
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### THURSDAY'S SOLUTIONS

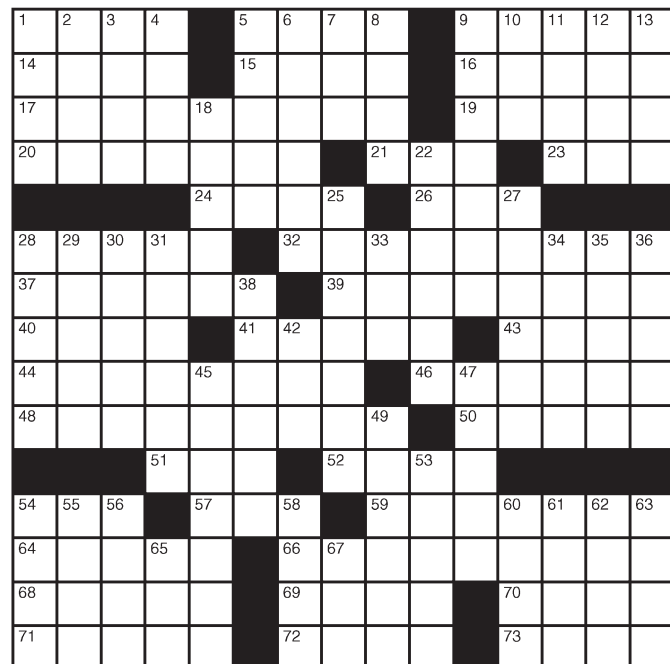
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R	O	M	E	U	S	E	R	S	C	O	R	E
F	R	A	T	L	E	F	T	T	E	S	T	S

### ACROSS

- 1 High-five impact
- 5 Milk choice
- 9 Alive with activity
- 14 Wind into rings
- 15 Ocean motion
- 16 Bullwhip-wielder Lash
- 17 Parthenon site
- 19 Broad smiles
- 20 Orator's platform
- 21 "Murder, ... Wrote"
- 23 Take a load off
- 24 List particular
- 26 Fall back
- 28 Wound crusts
- 32 Convicts on trumped-up charges
- 37 Heat units
- 39 Amorous
- 40 Ascension
- 41 Ruffled pride
- 43 ... Scotia
- 44 Three little words
- 46 Worked up a sweat
- 48 Oil conduits
- 50 Fuses
- 51 X
- 52 Merit
- 54 Cries of delight
- 57 Time of life
- 59 Haberdashery purchases
- 64 Glossy lacquer
- 66 Profusion
- 68 San Antonio landmark
- 69 Irish city
- 70 Con job
- 71 Turning part
- 72 ... Christian Andersen
- 73 Siamese

### DOWN

- 1 Aftereffect
- 2 Daft
- 3 Affectations
- 4 Storyline
- 5 Heady brew
- 6 "Trees" poet
- 7 Ugandan dictator Amin



- |                       |                               |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 8 Disorder            | 30 Ancient tale teller        | 53 Skating venues       |
| 9 Math class          | 31 Nominal military promotion | 54 Somewhat cracked?    |
| 10 Keyboard spacer    | 33 Debtor's promise           | 55 Ring around the moon |
| 11 "QB VII" author    | 34 Island loop                | 56 Lover's quarrel      |
| 12 Pueblo people      | 35 Jackknifed                 | 58 Per item             |
| 13 Spiciness          | 36 Oodles                     | 60 Long gone            |
| 18 Light refractor    | 38 Bond activity              | 61 Twelfth of a foot    |
| 22 Hard hat?          | 42 Saturn model               | 62 School sports org.   |
| 25 Theater projection | 45 ... of Aquitaine           | 63 Eighteen-wheeler     |
| 27 Clyde's moll       | 47 Had title to               | 65 Latin 101 verb       |
| 28 Landing area       | 49 Gas giant                  | 67 Jungle constrictor   |



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# whoville

BY  
JIM  
WALSH



REDEYE ILLUSTRATION

By now you've probably heard that Scarlett Johansson is selling her snot on eBay. As of Thursday afternoon, bids had surpassed \$2,000. The whole thing started when Johansson appeared on the "Tonight" show Wednesday and explained she had a cold that she caught from Samuel L. Jackson, her co-star in new flick "The Spirit." Johansson reasoned that because her snot was the result of two big names getting together, it had to be worth something. She's donating the proceeds to the USA Harvest. More shocking than the fact that ScarJo is selling off her bodily discharges is the fact that someone's willing to pay for it. RedEye doesn't have an extra two grand lying around, but if we did, we would totally spend it on these celeb items if they ever went up for auction.



## Is it worth it? Let us work it



### PARIS HILTON'S CELL PHONE

Remember when someone hacked her mobile and posted her celeb-filled address book on the Web? That was awesome.



### PETE WENTZ'S DIGNITY

For \$2,000 Wentz could have his personal self-worth restored.



### ANGELINA JOLIE'S VIAL

You know she still has that container of ex Billy Bob Thornton's blood lying around somewhere.



### JOHN MAYER'S LITTLE BLACK BOOK

Not unlike Paris Hilton's cell phone, this would be the key to unlock the inner world of the celebriverse.



### BRITNEY SPEARS' MTV VIDEO MUSIC AWARDS

She has enough moon men in her life—and we need paper weights!



### LIL WAYNE'S GRAMMY NODS

For two grand we could make sure someone walks away with the trophy.



### CONAN O'BRIEN'S HAIR

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### INFO ON MATT LEBLANC

Seriously, what ever happened to that guy?



### A SHOT AT LOVE WITH TILA TEQUILA

She might not give it up for the price tag, but hey, it's worth a shot.



### GEORGE CLOONEY'S CHARM

Ellen DeGeneres hasn't been able to lure neighbor Clooney into her California studio, but we think we could persuade him.



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## Bradgelina, Ledger score SAG nods

Power couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie snagged Screen Actors Guild nods for their work in their latest separate films Thursday, AP reported. The late Heath Ledger also earned a supporting-actor nomination; his maniacal turn as the Joker in "The Dark Knight" has made him an Academy Awards front-runner. The Batman blockbuster also garnered a nomination for best stunt ensemble. Leonardo DiCaprio, who got a Golden Globe nomination for "Revolutionary Road," was snubbed, while his co-star and bestie Kate Winslet picked up a nomination. The awards will air live on TNT and TBS on Jan. 25, four weeks before the Academy Awards.

## Investigation continues

After reports Mark Ruffalo's brother died in a game of Russian roulette, the L.A. coroner ruled the death a homicide, The Associated Press reported. A spokesman said an autopsy determined that someone shot Kenosha native Scott Ruffalo, 39, in the head. He was found with a gunshot wound early Dec. 1 and died a week later. Police do not have any suspects in custody and had not been notified of the coroner's determination by Wednesday evening.

## One and done?

NBC's "Today" show is going prime-time, for one night only. Matt Lauer, Meredith Vieira, Al Roker and Ann Curry will host a one-hour review on Dec. 22 of the year's biggest news events, AP reports. It won't be strictly serious; the show will include big moments in pop culture and "Today" show bloopers. It's the first time they've tried something like this in more than a decade.

## Supply and demand

Ever wonder what stars want when they're on the road? The ABC News Web site this week ran some of celebs' more outrageous requests for their homes away from home, based on riders on the Smoking Gun Web site, which has more than 200 riders. Here are some of them:



### Dustin "Don't call him Screech" Diamond

At venues where he's doing his stand-up routine, he demands that there be no reference to his "Saved By The Bell" character.



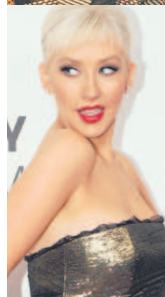
### M.I.A.

The "Paper Planes" singer knows her cheese. She requests an organic cheese tray featuring cave-aged Gruyere, Swiss and sharp cheddar, along with organic berries, fresh—not canned—olives and Ferrero Rocher chocolates. Wonder what she asks for now that she's preggers.



### Mary J. Blige

She demands a brand-new toilet seat to be installed anywhere she performs.



### Christina Aguilera

Xtina wants real coffee mugs for her java, along with soy milk, soy cheese, Echinacea, vitamin C and Flintstones chewable vitamins.

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**txtable**

## Celebrity twin

Do you look like a celebrity? Show us! Send your picture along with the name of the celeb who shares your style to [dlhernandez@tribune.com](mailto:dlhernandez@tribune.com). For Friday, we have Adam Russell. Think he's a ringer for Marques Houston? Text "twin" and the number of your opinion to **47383**. You'll get the results instantly.

1. Dead on 2. Way off



**Russell**



**Houston**

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# red hot

## 'Diddy Rock'?

This season of "30 Rock" has seen the likes of Jennifer Aniston and Oprah Winfrey. Now Diddy wants a piece of the action. "I'm definitely trying to holler at Tina Fey," Diddy told **online**.

**com**. "Me and Tracy [Morgan], we've been talking, and we got a scheme up our sleeves. ... I'm definitely trying to get in on that in the next two years, for real."



**HOT DATE**

**March 3**

Release date for U2's highly anticipated 12th studio album, E! Online reports. The band confirmed the title: "No Line on the Horizon."

### THE VELVET ROPE

#### Can we be your friend?

Sorry, Lindsay Lohan: Gripping as your blog posts are, turns out other celebs might be more popular on MySpace.

**Lohan**

The social networking site says Zach Braff, Kim Kardashian and Selena Gomez are among the stars with the most friends.

Also on the list: Paris Hilton, Ashton Kutcher, Jenna Fischer, Criss Angel and Lauren Conrad, the AP reports. T.I. is the most streamed artist on MySpace Music.

#### Mercury mystery

Jeremy Piven's twice-daily sushi diet may be partly to blame for the actor's extremely high mercury count, Piven's physician told E! News.

**Piven**

The "Entourage" actor left David Mamet's Broadway revival of "Speed-the-Plow" in New York this week, citing health concerns.

"He was eating sushi twice a day and taking some Chinese herbs," Dr. Carlton Colker told E! News.

Mamet didn't miss a beat, telling Variety magazine: "So my understanding is that he is leaving show business to pursue a career as a thermometer."

#### Hire me, please

How far is Taylor Lautner willing to go to land a role in the "Twilight" sequel?

**Lautner**

Lautner told MTV News he's been gaining weight—19 pounds so far—so he can return to "New Moon" as the bigger werewolf Jacob Black.

"I have been working out. I've been working out since the day we finished filming 'Twilight,'" Lautner said.

Although he has yet to get the role, Lautner, 16, is the overwhelming favorite among fans to return over reported candidate Michael Copon of "Scorpion King 2," according to a **people.com** poll.



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